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Advertiser-News

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Volume XXI Number 17

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

April 30, 1998



AT THE RIBBON-CUTTING dedicating the new wing at Bethany Assembly of God: Pastor George Cope, Pastor Jim Grove, Dan Charko, Mark Watson, Pastor Ken Bryars, David Saloio, Rich Voltz, Brad Martin, Frank Sunny, Bob Conti, Joe Dube, Harry Opal, and Pastor Peter Patterson.

Details Forthcoming At Public Hearing...

Fire Chief Okays Power Plant's Evacuation Plan

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At next week's Town Council meeting, the environmental consultants who wrote it and the public safety officials who will implement it are expected to explain the evacuation plan for the closest neighbors of the gas-fired power plant under construction on Moylan Lane.

On Monday, May 4th, environmental consultants from Earth Tech will attend a Town Council public hearing to discuss the scope of the plan they prepared for a worst case scenario emergency evacuation of residences and businesses in a half-mile radius of the Berkshire Power site.

Agawam Fire Chief David Pisano will also attend the public hearing to explain his reasons for approving the evacuation plan. In addition to reviewing the plan with his staff members, Pisano sent the plan to the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) for their review.

"I was pleased to receive a letter from John Pappas, MEMA's director, indicating the plan was satisfactory and could be included in our master plan for emergency management," Pisano said. "I consider this a changeable plan that can be updated as needed to identify key personnel at the power plant as the work progresses. This isn't something they will submit today and then forget about. That's not how we operate."

SEE EVACUATION - Page 2...

On Easter Sunday...

Bethany Assembly Of God Dedicates Its New Wing

by Peggy Shoemaker
Advertiser News Feature Writer

Bethany Assembly of God dedicated its new wing to children and youth on Easter Sunday, although the rooms of the wing were put into use as they were constructed and staffed. Finishing work is still in the process.

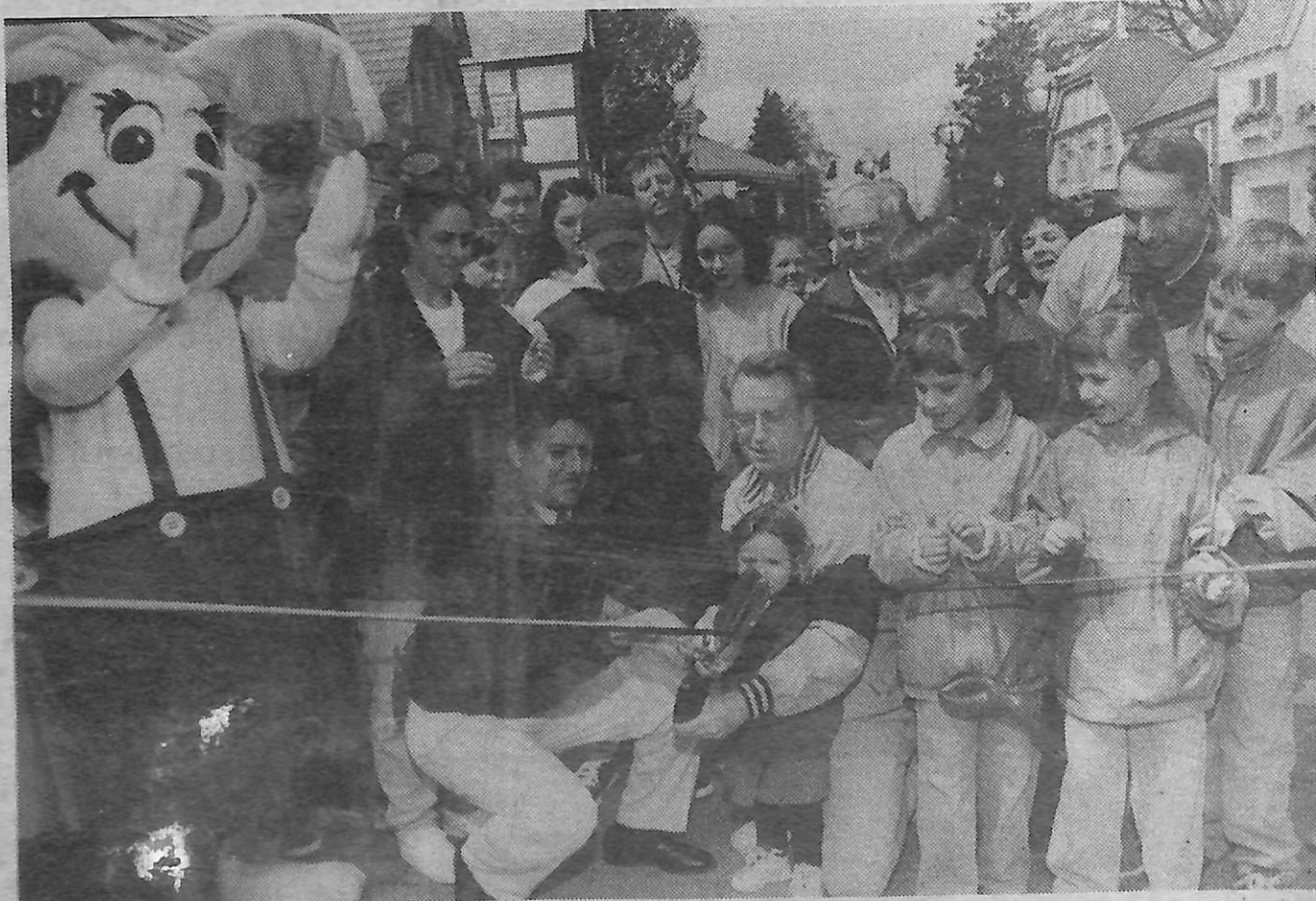
The wing, which includes 14 classrooms, a 2,800 square foot nursery, and a 400-seat chapel for youth, has been in construction for a year. Ground was broken on Easter Sunday 1997. The wing was built at a cost of \$2.7 million.

The church's six pastors all used scissors and participated in the late-afternoon ribbon-cutting, as did Bethany board members and Building Committee members. The ribbon-cutting began the festivities, and guests came and went viewing the new wing and enjoyed refreshments in the gymnasium.

A formal dedication service was at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church proper. This area seats 1,200 persons. The Reverend Kenneth Bryars, music pastor, led the worship and scripture reading, and prayer was by the Reverend Otis Stanley, district superintendent.

SEE BETHANY - "Church News" Section...

Riverside Park Opens For 1998 Season...



ON SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH, Riverside Amusement Park opened its doors for the 1998 season. As part of the opening-day festivities, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson's little niece, Gabriella Spear, helped the mayor and Riverside's Vice President/General Manager Bill Muirhead (kneeling) with the ribbon-cutting for the park's newest rides and attractions. (See additional photos in "Spotlight On Business.") Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

EVACUATION - from Page 1...

Pisano said he hopes to be able to put to rest people's fears, particularly the residents living in close proximity to the power plant, over the safety of the plant's operations.

"I want to put people at rest over any doomsday fears about the plant," Pisano said. "This is not a nuclear plant, it is a relatively safe and clean operation. The doomsday fears that people may have are not the case here."

In addition to personally attending the public hearing, Pisano expects representatives from MEMA, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline to offer their expertise in allaying any concerns neighbors of the plant might have regarding safety issues.

Berkshire Power Plant Manager Frank Basile said the community action plan, encompassing a half-mile radius around the power plant site, will be incorporated into the facility's Spill Contingency and Emergency Response Plans.

On Wednesday (presstime), copies of the plan were sent to the Town Council office for each councilor to read through in advance of next week's public hearing and a copy was sent to the public library for town residents to examine. The plan, titled Revision I for Construction Period, will evolve and be updated to remain accurate as work progresses on the plant and after the plant becomes operational, Basile said.

Originally, Berkshire Power submitted an evacuation plan covering a 1,000-foot radius based on a condition of their agreement with the zoning Board of Appeals to specify evacuation procedures for the residential properties nearest the power plant.

But, Basile said a second plan was written to comply with Fire Chief David Pisano's request for a plan with a half-mile radius as recommended by the U.S. Department of Transportation for facilities where the possibility of a fuel oil fire exists because the plant includes a storage tank for 500,000 gallons of fuel oil.

No Requirement For Evacuation Plan...

"We'd like everyone to be aware that there is no requirement for a facility like ours to have an

evacuation plan like this," Basile said. "This plan is specific to our town with the ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) special condition committing us to provide an evacuation plan to the fire and police chiefs. But, the special condition doesn't refer to a half-mile distance."

Basile said Berkshire Power is committed to living up to all of the special conditions imposed by their agreement with the ZBA.

Pisano said he agreed with the statement that facilities storing large amounts of fuel oil are not required to develop emergency evacuation plans. Citing an oil company storing a million gallons of fuel oil in a residential area of Springfield, Pisano pointed out, "I would guess that company didn't have to submit an evacuation plan."

In addition to detailing the results and the methodology of the evacuation times calculated in the unlikely event of an evacuation for the 198 people living within a half-mile of the Berkshire Power site, the evacuation plan deals with plans for evacuating a transient population of 365 workers within the evacuation zone as well as the 1,400 people who may be attending events at Chez Josef and the nearby Crestview Country Club.

Plans for evacuating special facilities, including a gymnastics training center and a nursing home within the evacuation zone with a total of 170 people, are part of the overall evacuation plan.

Using a variety of scenarios, including weekdays and weekends in varying weather conditions and times of day, the evacuation times range from 55 to 125 minutes, including a 15-minute notification time period.

In the event of an evacuation, Basile envisioned residents being told to leave the area in their cars. The plan calls for police cruisers to move into place at each intersection in the evacuation zone to direct traffic away from the site of a potentially hazardous situation.

Pisano said his department would have the responsibility to initiate the implementation of the evacuation plan if necessary, and Fire Department personnel would serve as the emergency response officials directing an evacuation effort with the support of the Police Department.

Melconian Hails Law Dealing With Juvenile Offenders

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has announced that the Senate unanimously approved legislation to correct a loophole which could result in the release of convicted juvenile offenders before their cases have been adjudicated.

Under current law, juvenile courts lose jurisdiction over criminals whose cases are still pending, after the offender turns 19. The issue came to the forefront last week when a Boston man, Felix Santiago, twice convicted of murdering a 17 year-old pregnant woman in 1994 and sentenced to 20 years, had his case overturned by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. The court found that the prosecution had used inflammatory language to influence the jury against the defendant.

Since Santiago is now 19, he is set to be released before the prosecution can seek a new trial. And since he was initially tried as a juvenile and no transfer hearing was requested, he cannot be retried as an adult.

"This is unacceptable and the law needs to be changed," Melconian said. "Letting Santiago go free will encourage stalling and delay tactics in other juvenile cases to keep them going past the offender's 19th birthday."

The bill would also apply to Stephen DiRenzo and John Uminski of Rockland, two other convicted murderers who have aged out of the system while awaiting retrials of their convictions. The SJC has said that it is within the law for the Legislature to change the age limits on cases before the juvenile court. Although the new law would apply retroactively, it may still not be enough to keep Santiago in custody. But the Rockland teenagers and other juveniles in the future would be covered.

"Although the cases that have brought this unintended loophole to the forefront in Massachusetts have been in Eastern Massachusetts, its impact would be statewide. We must amend the law and allow the juvenile courts the opportunity to adjudicate cases through to their conclusion," Melconian said. "No free pass should be given simply because of a technicality."

Please remember that our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon ... AAN!!!

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- George F. Will



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Letters To The Editor

Agawam Resident Seeks Info. Regarding Her Lost Dog

To The Editor:

I am very lucky to be living in Agawam. This town is filled with sensitive and caring people.

Over the weekend, I have been desperately seeking information that would lead me to find our little dog, Sasha. During this ongoing search, I have stopped many people on the streets, in their driveways, and in their homes asking for information on her whereabouts. Young people and old alike have been incredibly helpful and kind with words of encouragement and sympathy.

I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart, and I want to say thank you to all the businesses which allowed us to post a flyer in their window. To all my friends who have been incredibly supportive, you have kept me feeling hopeful and I couldn't be keeping it together if not for you.

We are continuing our search and pray every night that our little Sasha will soon be home with us. If anyone out there has seen her or knows where she is, please help her to come back to her family. She is deeply missed.

I am anxious to speak with the woman who was in front of the Chinese restaurant in the Food Mart plaza carrying a little white dog on Friday evening. Also, if you live or know anyone in the Plantation condos, please check neighbors and friends to see if someone took her in.

Thank you.

Cheryl Iacolino
Agawam
(call 786-6994 anytime)

AHS Band Thanks Town For Supporting Can Drive

To The Editor:

We would like to thank all of the citizens of Agawam who donated cans and/or bottles for our can drive. There was a great turnout and the band would like to thank everyone who supported us.

A large thank you goes out to Dave's Soda & Pet Food City. The use of Dave's facility was very useful and we are grateful for his help. His workers were also very helpful and we would like to thank them for their assistance.

Another thank you goes out to Heritage Hall and all the other businesses which donated cans or money to the drive. Without help from all of you out there, such a strong music department as we have could not exist.

Thank you again for your support. We promise to bring back the gold in Atlanta this weekend (April 30th-May 4th).

Sincerely,
Shawn Sherry & Carolyn Cline
Band Co-Presidents

Key Facts Were Omitted In Statements Regarding BP

To The Editor:

I am writing in response to comments made by Michael Armitage, the short-term owner of the Berkshire Power Plant.

In the last issue of *The Agawam Advertiser*, Mr. Armitage stated that "his company offered an olive branch to the parties in its libel suit seven months ago." Armitage also went on to say that he promised to drop the litigation if the people he is suing drop their countersuit.

As one of those being sued by Berkshire Power, I can state firsthand that what Mr. Armitage said is partly true and is another example of how he deliberately omits key facts.

Mr. Armitage, in his carefully worded statement, is obviously trying to make the public believe that we refused his so-called olive branch. The truth is, we agreed to try to resolve our differences and settle the suits.

We met with Armitage and his attorneys and laid out the groundwork for ending the suits. We came to a tentative agreement on the conditions by which we would negotiate and the timeframe. Some of the conditions that were verbally agreed to include our right to continue to speak only on the merits or demerits of a tax treaty; that they would negotiate with us as a group and not as individuals; and that Berkshire Power would take out a full page ad apologizing to us, thereby ad-

mitting we did nothing wrong.

As many have already learned, Armitage, by secretly convincing Tony Cuccovia to sell all of us out, took away the olive branch, stopped negotiations, and then tried to make it sound like we were at fault.

But then, Armitage's latest actions should not surprise anyone. He is, after all, carrying out his "GOOD NEIGHBOR" policies which have included threats, intimidations, lawsuits against citizens and our Board of Appeals, and an attempt to avoid paying his fair share of taxes. Also, we must not forget the millions he has spent to buy off people in order to get his way.

In short, Mr. Armitage's idea of being a good neighbor is to do whatever is necessary to make sure HIS good neighbors do what HE wants. The scary part is that some of our elected officials have done exactly what Armitage wants and continue to do so even though his true character and his demeaning attitude towards the citizens of Agawam has been proven time and time again.

Thanks to those officials who support Armitage, it may be too late for Agawam, but hopefully other communities that deal with Armitage and Berkshire Power, such as Westfield, will, with our help, learn from Agawam's mistakes.

Thank You,
Louis J. Russo
Feeding Hills

Former Councilor Defends Council's Vote Against PILOT

To The Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank seven members of the Agawam City Council for their decisive and courageous vote against the proposed Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Tax (PILOT) agreement with Berkshire Power at the Council's April 21st meeting.

It was neither long ago nor far away when, as a member of the City Council myself, I raised my voice in opposition to Berkshire Power's first attempt at a PILOT agreement.

To anyone with ears to hear, I loudly sounded the message that the best interests of the Town of Agawam could NEVER be served by such an agreement. Now, however, I can sleep a little bit easier at night knowing that, once again, the mighty "Goliath" has been defeated by "David."

To Councilors Rheault, Magovern, Geiger, Caba, Letellier, Bitzas, and Negrucci, therefore, I offer, together with all the citizens of our community, my gratitude for your unity, your determination, and your fortitude in doing what is right for AGAWAM!

Thank you,
Joseph F. Langone
Former Agawam City Councilor

District Learning Team Seeks Public Support At Next Mtg.

To The Editor:

On Wednesday, May 6, 1998, the monthly meeting of the Agawam District Learning Team will take place in the Junior High School cafeteria, at 7:00 p.m.

Many educational issues concerning our system, such as communication, teaming process lessons, and promotion policies, will be on the agenda.

Please plan on attending, even if it's just to listen. We'd love to have you!

Sincerely,
The Agawam District Learning Team

Keenan Fights For Taxpayer Rights

Representative Daniel F. Keenan pledged his support earlier this month for two pieces of tax legislation that would protect taxpayers' rights and make the system more fair, responsive, and efficient.

"These reforms will make fundamental improvements in our tax system," Keenan said. "Resolving tax issues will be simpler, faster, and more cost-effective for everybody involved."

The first bill has two important provisions. It eliminates the so-called "Pay to Play" provisions imposed under current law, which require taxpayers to pay in full or face collection activity during their appeals process. The new provision would stay collection and defer payment throughout the course of legitimate appeals, making the process less burdensome for taxpayers.

The bill is also designed to improve the efficiency of the dispute resolution process. A second provision would authorize the Department of Revenue to settle disputes before the taxpayer exhausts administrative remedies and appeals a claim to the Appellate Tax Board, providing relief for taxpayers and DOR from the extra costs of litigation and time involved.

The second bill adds provisions which further protect taxpayers' rights. Primarily, it would make inappropriate access to taxpayer files a crime and merit termination of employment. The language contained in the bill is intended to deter these acts of "browsing" and severely punish those who defy the law.

Also in this bill are reforms that further the system's efficiency. It raises the income tax withholding threshold from \$2,000 to \$8,000, authorizes DOR to waive interest in cases where the payment would cause the taxpayer hardship, establishes a small claims procedure for disputes of \$5,000 or less to speed up settlements, establishes an advisory board to oversee DOR, shifts the "burden of proof" in the taxpayer's favor by adopting a straightforward "preponderance of evidence" standard in court disputes, empowers the taxpayer to seek damages as a result of reckless or intentional actions by DOR, complies with federal law by eliminating the requirement to file state estate tax returns in certain situations, and relieves innocent spouses of joint tax liability.

Keenan Supports Western Mass. Business Development

Representative Daniel F. Keenan recently showed his support for Mass Ventures, a Western Massachusetts venture development company that assists companies in finding necessary resources and implementing key changes to maximize growth.

Mass Ventures announced earlier this month that it has provided management assistance to four companies, helped raise collectively \$8 million in new venture money for clients, and created over 100 jobs in companies who are just getting started.

Combined with the Mass Venture Center and the Mass Ventures Equity Fund, its efforts represent over \$25 million in new investments for the region.

"Support for the entrepreneurs of Western Massachusetts is crucial to continuing our economic recovery," said Keenan.



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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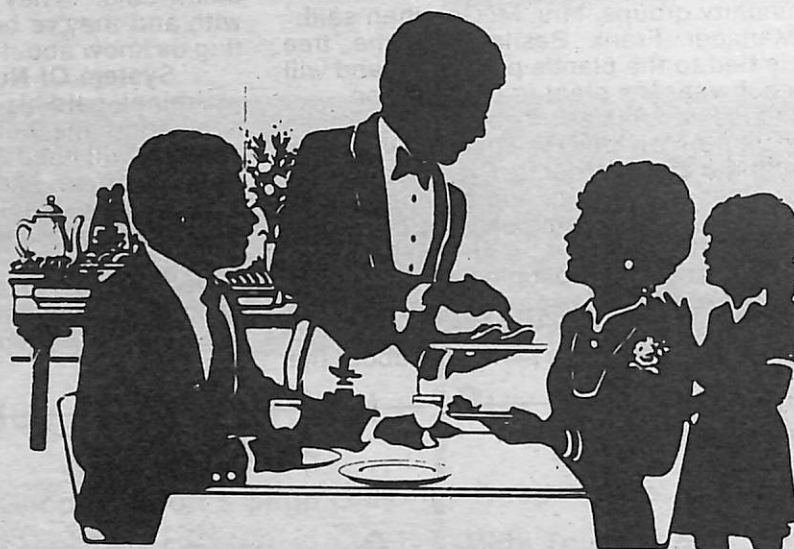


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IN LEFT PHOTO: Berkshire Power Community Representative Joann McGeoghan with helpers Jamie Meadows, Kriste Lawson, and Kerry McGeoghan during the company's Fourth Annual Tree Day. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Joann McGeoghan at Berkshire Power's Moylan Lane site. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Construction To Begin On Power Plant's Turbine Building...

Berkshire Power Officials Conduct Their Fourth Annual Tree Day

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The day after receiving the town's permission to begin constructing their turbine building, Berkshire Power officials spent Saturday at their Moylan Lane site giving trees away to anyone willing to plant them.

According to Berkshire Power Community Representative Joann McGeoghan, the company had ordered 8,000 Douglas Firs for its Fourth Annual Tree Day. By 12:00 noon, more than 4,000 trees had been picked up by residents of Agawam and Westfield (where the company plans to build a second power plant). Most of the trees were taken by individuals, but some were taken by scout leaders and teachers as the basis for group projects. Any leftover trees will be donated to local community groups, Mrs. McGeoghan said.

Plant Manager Frank Basile said the tree giveaway is tied to the plant's permitting and will continue each year the plant is in operation.

"We don't look on this as an obligation," Basile said. "We enjoy giving the trees away and meeting with the area residents. Every year this is a learning experience for us and an opportunity for the children and the community to come out and see what we're all about."

Basile said many of the people who picked up trees had never seen the design plan or visited the site before. "This was an opportunity for them to ask about the progress of the plant, ask about the

construction trailers, and take a look at the site plan. Most people said they think the site looks good."

In general, Basile said the response he has received from the community has been positive (as people realize the plant will be an asset to the community and as they see the plant will be as safe as the company claims).

Having issued the initial building permit to allow construction to begin on the foundation of the turbine building, Building Inspector Dominic Urbinati had nothing but praise for the company.

"At this point, they have not backtracked one bit in regard to what I've asked them to do," Urbinati said. "They are very cooperative to work with and they've been very straight shooters, letting us know about every change as we go along."

System Of Numbering The Buildings...

Urbinati said his office has devised a system of numbering the buildings and structures on the site that will need inspections or building permits from his office. The information is being kept in a card file and displayed on a wall map to make recordkeeping easier for both the town and the power developers. The building permits will be issued for each separate building and structure as construction of the plant progresses in order to allow the latest technology to be included in the design.

"While the overall design of the plant is complete, the specifics are being changed as we go along to include the latest in technology as it becomes available," Urbinati said.

Anyone wishing to inspect the plans or the card files can stop in at the building inspector's Town Hall office, Urbinati said.

In accordance with Berkshire Power's agreement with the Zoning Board of Appeals, the building permit for the foundation work on the turbine building was issued after the company submitted an evacuation plan to the Police and Fire Departments, Urbinati said.

"The ZBA agreement didn't say the building permit was contingent on the evacuation being approved, but I did receive a letter from the Fire Chief approving the evacuation plan," Urbinati said.

In addition to the building permit for the turbine building, Urbinati said he has already issued the building, plumbing, and electrical permits necessary for the temporary construction trailer compound at the site.

Urbinati, who expects to visit the site every other day for the next few months, said there may be as many as 45 structures or pieces of equipment at the site requiring inspections for building, plumbing, electrical, and gas permits.



"When pansies lead, the rest will follow. In addition to the pansies and violas ready for the garden, we have as much or as little as you're willing to tackle, including lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, collards, red, yellow, and Spanish onions, leeks, scallions, chives, perennial herbs and flowers, rose bushes, honeysuckle, clematis, alyssum, and dianthus. And this is just the beginning."

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Regular Council Mtg. Agenda For May 4th

1. Citizen's Speak Time
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 4/21/98
5. Declaration from Council President
6. **Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances**
 - (a) **Resolutions**
 1. TR-98-13- A Resolution Authorizing an Order of Taking Under the Authority of Section 14 of Chapter 40 and Chapter 79 of the Mass. General Laws for Temporary and Permanent Easements for the Combined Sewer Overflow Elimination Project (Mayor)(Tabled 4/21/98).
 2. TR-98-14- A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Gerald M. Landry of 71 Country Rd., Aga., MA to the Board of Commissioners to Administer the Thomas Pyne and Whiting Street Funds for a Term to Expire December 31, 1999 (Mayor).
 3. TR-98-15- A Resolution Confirming the Reappointment of Dennis B. Hopkins of 108 Monroe St., Aga., MA to the Planning Board for a Term to Expire January 1, 2003 (Mayor).
 4. TR-98-16- A Resolution Establishing Stop Signs at the Intersection of Haskell Street with Wright Street (Mayor).
 5. TR-98-17- A Resolution Supporting Initiatives in Reviewing and Revising the Zoning Code of the Town of Agawam (Pres. Rheault).
 7. **Report of Council Committees**
 8. **Elections**
None.
 9. **Public Hearings**
 - (a)
 1. PH-98-2-(PE-98-1)-Group Petition, Art. 8, Sec. 8-1(b)(Evacuation Plan)(Pres. Rheault)(Conduct Public Hearing).
 10. **Old Business**

- (a)
 1. TOR-98-2-An Ordinance to Amend Sec. 49-7(9) (a) & (c) of the Code of the Town of Agawam to Update the Hourly Wages for Election and Census Workers and the Annual Salary for Members of the Board of Registrars (Sponsored by Richard M. Theroux, Town Clerk and George Bitzas, Councilor)(Ref. to Ordin. Comm. on 4/6/98)(3rd Reading).
 2. TOR-98-3-An Ordinance to Amend Ch. 114, Sec. 144-8 entitled Number of Licenses Restricted of the Code of the Town of Agawam (Coun. Bitzas) (2nd Reading).
 3. TOR-98-4-An Ordinance to amend the Code of the Town of Agawam, Ch. 180, in order to regulate Adult Businesses in the Town of Agawam (City Council is petitioner)(Plann. Brd. Public Hearing is 5/21/98)(Set Public Hearing Date for Council)(Suggest 6/15/98 accord. to Plann. Bd.).
 4. TO-98-17-Renewal of Junk Dealer License: John Rosati, d/b/a John Trucking of Agawam, Inc.
 5. TO-98-18-Renewal of Junk Dealer License: T's Jewelers.
 6. TO-98-19-Renewal of Junk Dealer License: Block Jewelers.
 7. TO-98-20-Application for License for one (1) additional amusement device for RLZ, Inc. d/b/a Jessica's - 11 So. End Bridge Circle, Aga., MA.
 8. TO-98-21-\$10,000 from Reserve Fund (16605-57300) to Public Works - Highway & Grounds Division-Overtime (14201-51030)(Mayor).
 9. TO-98-22-Transfer \$5,468 from Reserve Fund (16605-57300) to Public Works-Wastewater Division-Overtime (22541-51030)(Mayor).
 10. TO-98-23-Transfer \$9,014 from Reserve Fund (16605-57300) to Public Works-Water Division-Overtime (60141-51030)(Mayor).
 11. TO-98-24-Riverside Park Amusement Licenses (Pres. Rheault)(Information to follow).
 12. TO-98-25-Voucher List (\$150.00).

FireWise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

Move Your "Can" ... Your Can Of Gasoline, That Is!!!

Flammable liquids, like gasoline and kerosene, are serious hazards that we keep around our homes. However, if they are stored and used properly and safely, accidents can be avoided.

Most people do not realize that a gallon of gasoline can be as dangerous as 14 sticks of dynamite. When ignited, these flammable liquids (with their invisible vapors) don't burn, but explode! The most likely victims are men and boys between the ages of nine and 35.

The more typical accidents involving flammable liquids happen when:

- Gasoline is used to clean something.
- During the refueling of small engines/motors while they are still hot, or while smoking.
- Applying lighter fluid on a charcoal fire that has already started to burn.

The following guidelines should be used when handling or storing flammable liquids:

- Store in "safety cans" or containers that have been approved for the storage of flammables by Factory Mutual (FM) or Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

- Store outside the home, away from areas where there are pilot lights or other sources of ignition.

- Use solvents designed for cleaning, always following the manufacturer's recommendations for proper use.

- When refueling any engine, turn it off, allow to cool, and extinguish all smoking materials.

Any flammable liquid should be treated with respect in order to prevent accidents. If you have them stored in your home, move your "can" ... for the safety of your family.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

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Riverside Debuts Its Newest Thrill Ride — The Hellevator

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

What's in a name? A pretty good idea of what's in store for the brave hearts willing to drop into a seat on Riverside Park's newest thrill ride, the Hellevator. As in the elevator from ... you know where.

On a clear day, riders can see the Hartford skyline as they pause atop the 20-story tower before the Hellevator sends them plunging downward in a freefall at three times the force of gravity.

"It's great the way the ride builds anticipation as you go up. At the top, you hear a big clang and a release of air; then you pause just long enough so you can ask yourself, 'What am I doing here?' But, then it's a great ride down, all done for effect to increase the thrill," according to Riverside Park Vice President/General Manager Bill Muirhead.

Dominating The Center Of The Park

Dominating the center of the park, the 185-foot Hellevator debuted last week to an enthusiastic group of VIP guests. Several town councilors were among the first riders to be strapped three abreast into the open air seats for the 20-story ascent to the top of the tower. With their feet dangling, riders are transported at 12 miles an hour to the top of the tower where they pause for several seconds before being launched downward at 60 miles an hour for a 20-story drop at over three times the force of gravity.

Councilor Jill Simpson, along with her husband, David, and 11 year-old son, Brian, hopped on for the first (and second) trip to the top of the park's tallest structure while eight year-old Jeff reserved judgment. By the third ride, Jeff was first in line for an elevator ride from ... you know where.

But, watching the screaming thrill riders only convinced Councilor Nancy Thompson to remain on terra firma, with baby granddaughter, Olivia.

"My speed is the merry-go-round, the Ferris wheel, and the tilt-a-whirl," Ms. Thompson laughed. "I'm here to show support for a good corporate neighbor."

Mrs. Simpson said the anticipation on the freefall from the top added to the fun and terror of the ride. "It was a blast! It's such a neat feeling when it just drops down," Mrs. Simpson said.

Joining the Simpson family for the second trip, Councilors John Negrucci and Gary Geiger said they felt they were levitating out of the seats during their plunge downward. "Anybody would enjoy this ride," Negrucci said. "I'd highly recommend it. It's scary, but enjoyable."

Geiger said the view from the top of the tower is magnificent.

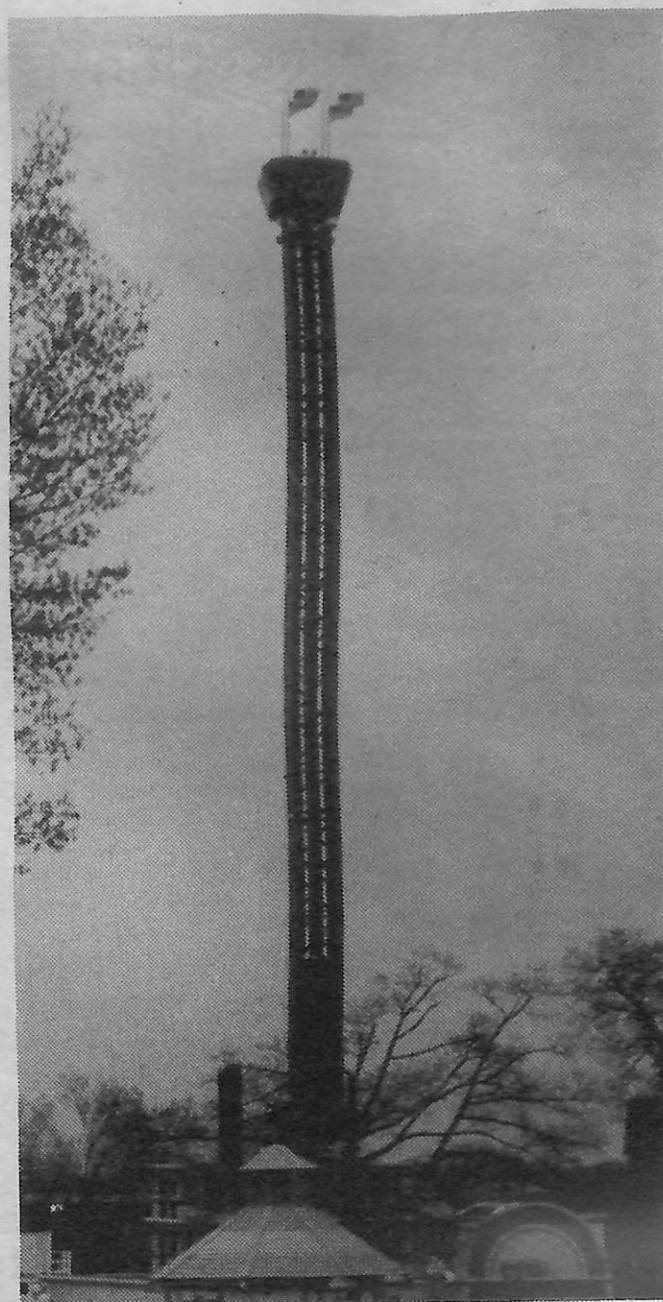
Tallest Attraction At The Park

While it's the tallest attraction at the park, the Hellevator is a shorter version of a ride that reaches heights of 300 feet at other theme parks across the country.

According to Riverside Marketing Manager Ron Severt, "A lot of parks are putting in a version that's twice as tall, but this is the size we felt fits into Agawam."

Featuring a redundant safety system strapping passengers into their seats with both electronic and mechanical locking devices, the Hellevator is supervised by two operators: one on the ground assisting passengers onto the ride, and one operating the controls from a second-story vantage point in the themed control booth, Severt said.

With a price tag of \$3 million, the Hellevator is part of this season's \$20 million planned improvements in new rides, shows, and updated theming.



A LONG SHOT of the Hellevator, which Riverside Amusement Park debuted last week for a group of enthusiastic (and brave) VIP guests. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Senate Passes Meaningful Domestic Violence/Child Custody Act

Senate Assistant Majority Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has announced unanimous Senate passage of legislation to require that domestic violence be considered as a factor in determining the best interests of the child in custody proceedings.

"If a parent is abusive to his or her spouse or children, the courts should use that in determining custody," Melconian said. "Certain rights are lost when you hit or abuse a member of your family."

The legislation, which has already been approved by the House of Representatives, does not create a presumption against the award of visitation to the abusive parent; rather, it creates a rebuttable presumption that parents who perpetrate a "pattern or serious incidence" of abuse against their spouses or children will not receive custody of the children in divorce, separation,

and paternity proceedings. The burden falls on the parent who allegedly perpetrated the abuse to provide evidence that refutes the court's presumption.

The Senate had sought the opinion of the Supreme Judicial Court on the constitutionality of the measure. The SJC reported back that it is within the Legislature's jurisdiction to set a rebuttable presumption in custody proceedings.

"More than half of all persons who abuse their partners also abuse their children," Melconian said. "The proper domestic environment is crucial to the success of a child's upbringing. It is perfectly reasonable to examine or evaluate domestic situations in deciding which parent is suitable to raise a couple's child."

The legislation is expected to receive final passage and be signed by the governor in the upcoming weeks.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1998 at 6:30 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of the AGAWAM HOUSING AUTHORITY, which is seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the creation of additional parking spaces at the premises identified as Meadowbrook Manor, 886 MAIN STREET.

Ronald A. Hebert,
Chairman

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1998 at 6:45 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of PATRICIA BORGATTI, who is seeking a Special Use Permit from Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the creation of a "second housekeeping" unit at the premises identified as: 179 FRANKLIN STREET.

Ronald A. Hebert,
Chairman

LEGAL NOTICE

Agawam Post Office To Participate In National Food Drive

On Saturday, May 9th, the National Association of Letter Carriers, in conjunction with the United States Postal Service, including the Agawam Post Office, will be sponsoring the annual Food Drive across the nation.

On this second Saturday in May, tens of thousands of Letter Carriers throughout the country will be picking up non-perishable food items that their patrons will be leaving by their mailboxes.

Locally, Western Mass. Branch 46 of the NALC will be participating in the drive, with all of the major cities and towns with uniformed Letter Carriers joining in. Last year was a tremendous success with over 223,000 pounds of food collected and distributed to local food pantries. Nationally, over 73 million pounds collected by over 1,400 branches of the NALC.

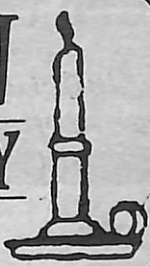
"We are proud of our past efforts, but we would like to build on our success, because the need is greater than ever," said Vincent Siniscalchi, NALC Food Drive Coordinator. "That is where we need the public's help. The amount of food that we receive is directly related to the degree of publicity we get," he said.

"Last year was the largest one-day collection of food in the nation's history. Please help us and your local community in this worthwhile effort to top that record on May 9th," he said.

Published: April 30, 1998

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Veterans' Corner...

by Ruth C. Bitzas
Veterans' Agent

"Spirit Of Freedom" Plans Stop At Westover

On May 5th, the actual World War II four-engine Douglas C-54 "Skymaster," the "Spirit of Freedom," will touch down at Westover and will remain for three hours prior to heading for Goose Bay, Labrador at 12:30 p.m. During the next two months, the aircraft/museum will participate in Berlin Airlift 50th anniversary activities in the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.

According to the Ellie Boissenault, local columnist for *The Chicopee Herald*, "Although the plane is flightworthy, it is over 50 years-old and without modern navigational aids. On board the plane will be one of Chicopee's favorite honorary citizens, Col. Gail Halvorsen, now retired and living in Provo, Utah."

"In 1948, Halvorsen was a first lieutenant and one of the early group of pilots involved in the Berlin Airlift. When the Soviet government blockaded the American, French, and British sectors of the city of Berlin in June of that year, they were unable to block the air routes to the city. Rather than surrender their sectors of Berlin to the Soviets, the three Allied governments resolved to keep the city supplied with food and fuel. Soon the constant drone of aircraft engines filled the skies over the blockaded city as American and British planes brought in load after load of supplies for the beleaguered Berlin residents. The doughty pilots landed planes 24 hours a day, seven days a week in both good weather and bad."

"When Halvorsen realized that the blockade also prevented children from enjoying the sweet treats that are loved universally, he began dropping parachutes containing candy bars and gum to groups of German children. The story of that feat is remarkable in itself and is contained in a reference book, 'The Candy Bomber,' that is available for study at the Chicopee library."

"It is extremely interesting and worthy of spending some time perusing it there. Although Halvorsen had not broadcast news of his gifts to the children, it was not long before it came to the attention of higher officers, who authorized him to keep on with the program."

"... The Spirit of Freedom is a flying museum of the airlift with pictures and souvenirs of the pilots who kept the residents of Berlin supplied by flying night and day. It is planned to be an educational exhibit and will tour various air shows while in Europe. It will also be available for schoolchildren to visit and learn first-hand about the airlift. The plane will return to Chicopee for the Westover Air Show so that many more visitors can tour the plane and learn more about that massive undertaking of the Air Force ..."

Former President George Bush will be one of the governmental representatives attending the most important ceremonies in Germany, as well as British and French representatives of their respective governments. Some of the Chicopee schoolchildren will be on hand to welcome the "Spirit of Freedom," and the public is invited as well.

I thank Ellie for dropping off a copy of *The Herald*. I feel that some of the Agawam teachers reading the information may want to share the wonderful story of the Berlin Airlift with their students.

Agawam Rotary Seeks Sponsors For Summer Entertainment Prog.

The Agawam Rotary Club is again looking for \$25 business sponsors and \$10 family sponsors to help cover the printing costs related to the printing of this year's summer entertainment schedule.

Over 2,000 of the programs will be distributed throughout town according to Michael Grandfield of the Rotary Club. Any excess funds would be allocated to an Agawam scholarship for the arts.

The summer series itself will feature 10 musical groups, including Signature Sounds recording artist *Salamander Crossing*, Boston's contemporary a-cappella group *Five O'Clock Shadow*, and local favorite *Brass Attack*.

In addition, three "drive-in" movies are scheduled for Saturday nights along with a variety of pre-movie entertainment. The series is sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council and the Rotary Club.

Persons or businesses looking to help should make their checks payable to the Agawam Rotary Club, P.O. Box 587, Agawam, MA 01001 or call the Rotary Club at 789-7393 to be billed or for more information. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

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— Agawam Obituaries —

George A. Shepard

George A. ("Bud") Shepard, 73, of 416 Suffield Street, Agawam, died at Noble Hospital in Westfield.

He was a long-time sales representative for Pezrow Food Inc., Enfield, retiring in 1996. Before that, he was a sales representative for R.J. Reynolds Co. for 14 years. He also worked as a district manager for the James McInerney Co.

Born in Springfield, he was a graduate of the former Springfield Technical High School. He moved to Agawam in 1951 and was a communicant of Saint John the Evangelist Church.

He was a past president and chaplain of the former Knights of the Grip, Western Massachusetts, and was a Boy Scout troop leader at the Clarke School for the Deaf, Northampton.

He was a World War II Army Air Corps veteran, attaining the rank of sergeant. He served in the 515th Fighter Bombardment Squadron. He received the Asiatic Pacific Theater and American Theater Campaign ribbons.

He leaves his wife of 51 years, the former Mary Ferrero; three sons, John J. of Enfield, Michael G. of Feeding Hills, and Robert T. of Agawam; a daughter, Regina A. Chaple of Townsend; two brothers, Paul of Carmel, California, and Francis S. Shepard of Springfield; a sister, Geraldine Mayotte of Wilbraham; 13 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and several nephews and nieces.

The funeral was held at the Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam, followed by a Mass in the church. Burial was in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in his memory to the Clarke School for the Deaf, Stone Hill Road, Northampton, MA 01060.

Marion F. Leach

Marion F. (Blair) Leach, formerly of 82 Barbara Street, Springfield, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She was active in many community and civic organizations for several years.

She was a secretary for Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., retiring after 25 years of service.

Born in Rensselaer, New York, she moved to Springfield and was a graduate of the Agawam High School class of 1927. She was Connecticut Valley Typing Champion that same year.

She served as organist, pianist, and soloist for several area churches, and was president of several veterans' organizations.

She was a licensed healer and reader of spiritualist churches, serving throughout New England.

She also was a volunteer at the Springfield Municipal Hospital.

She was chairman of the Board of Public Welfare, assistant Town Clerk, treasurer and

assistant organizer of Little League Baseball, all in Holland.

She was predeceased by her husband, the Rev. Edward A., in 1957.

She leaves several nephews and nieces, among them Marcia A. Barker of Agawam, who cared for her.

At her request, her body was donated to Harvard Medical School, Boston. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089, or to the Springfield Municipal Hospital Patient Library, 1400 State Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Juliette I. Baribeau

Juliette I. (LeClair) Baribeau, 87, of Depot Court, Southwick, an employee of the former F.W. Sickles Co., and the 11-year manager of the former Peerless Department Store in Springfield, died in an Agawam nursing home.

She retired in 1969.

Born in Putnam, Connecticut, she lived in Springfield for 72 years before moving to Southwick in 1990.

She worshipped at Our Lady of the Lake Church, and belonged to the Rosary Altar Society.

She was a member and volunteer of the Southwick and West Springfield Senior Citizens Clubs, a former parishioner of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, a member of the Dames de St. Anne Society, and a former solicitor for Catholic Charities.

Her husband, Bert A. Baribeau, died in 1977, and a daughter, Dolores DeMaio Fitzgerald, in 1990.

She leaves a son, Robert of Southwick; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and nephews and nieces.

The funeral was held at Southwick Funeral Home and Our Lady of the Lake Church, with the burial at Calvary Cemetery in Chicopee.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Western Massachusetts Hospice, 50 Maple Street, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058, or Country Estates, 1200 Suffield Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Millicent M. Tinker

Millicent M. (Salmon) Tinker, 92, of 6 Darwin Drive, Westfield, died in an Agawam nursing home.

She was a substitute teacher in the West Worthington schools and formerly taught in Dorset, Vermont.

Born in Easthampton, she lived in Worthington and moved to Westfield in 1961.

She graduated from the Easthampton High School and the former North Adams Normal School (now known as North Adams State College).

She was a member of the First Congregational Church of Westfield and a former member of the Friendship Guild of the Worthington Congregational Church.

Her husband, Clifford C., died in 1979.

She leaves a son, Harry J. of Westfield; a nephew, Ashley Cole of North Carolina; and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Healey-Pease Funeral Home, with burial in Center Cemetery of Worthington.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Westfield, 18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA 01085.

Denis R. Hall

Denis R. Hall, 61, of 431 Elm Street, West Springfield, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was a songwriter and recording artist for Capitol Records of Los Angeles, California, for 15 years, and a producer of special events at the Will Rogers Center in Fort Worth, Texas, for 13 years.

Born in Hell's Kitchen, New York, he lived in Michigan, California, and Texas before moving to West Springfield three years ago.

He leaves his wife, the former Beverly Bliss; a son, Richard C. of Minneapolis, Minnesota; three daughters, Jessica of Royal Oak, Michigan, and Catherine and Denise of Orlando, Florida; three sisters, Patricia Hall and Priscilla Harman of West Springfield, and Prudence Geisel of Baltimore, Maryland; and six grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Robert E. Cusack Funeral Home of Westfield, and the Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam. The burial was in the Community Center in Russell.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Bethany Assembly of God Youth and Children's Center, P.O. Box 422, Agawam, MA 01001.

Patricia P. Pace

Patricia P. (Gamble) Pilblad Pace, 64, formerly of Main Street, Charlemont, died on April 22nd at an Agawam area nursing home.

She was an antiques dealer in Attleboro, Amherst, and Charlemont.

Born in Akron, Iowa, she moved to Attleboro in 1956, and to Charlemont in 1984.

She leaves a daughter, Sandra Wagle of Charlemont; three grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Her son, Gary E. Pilblad, died in 1980.

Relatives and friends gathered at Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home in Shelburne Falls.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 11...

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OBITUARIES - from Page 10...



Sarah James

Sarah (Granger) James, 56, of Long Beach, California, and formerly of Feeding Hills, died on March 31st after a short illness.

The daughter of the late Sydney and Phyllis (Gray) Granger, she was born May 18, 1941 in Feeding Hills. She was a resident of Long Beach for 34 years.

She was a tax consultant as well as a poet and a lay preacher.

She leaves a brother, Charlie Granger of Feeding Hills; a sister, Joyce (Granger) Grygiel of Redding, California; a friend of 16½ years, Greg Lindberg; a daughter, Bekah James of Berkeley, California; a son, Tom Fred James, a daughter-in-law, Karen Anderson, and a grandson, Emthry, of Oceanside, California; an adopted brother, Conrad Housley of Long Beach; and several nieces and nephews.

On the east coast, she also leaves several cousins in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire area (Gray); many friends and classmates in the Feeding Hills area; and her special lifelong friend, Mari.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, April 18th, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach. A second memorial service will be held this Saturday, May 2nd, at 2:00 p.m. at Valley Community Church, 152 South Westfield Street (Route 57), Feeding Hills.

Contributions may be sent in memory of Sarah James to the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5450 Atherton Street, Long Beach, California 90815, The Portsmouth Athenaeum, 9 Market Square, Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801, or the New Hampshire Historical Society.

Donald E. Liberty

Donald E. ("Pudge") Liberty, 74, of Pheasant Hill Road, Feeding Hills, died at Country Estates, Agawam.

He was a printer for Walter Whittum Co. Born in East Granby, Connecticut, he worshipped at St. John the Evangelist Church, and belonged to the Craftsman's Club.

He was predeceased by his wife, the former Grace Bertocci, in 1985.

He leaves a daughter, Donna Klisiewicz of Agawam; a brother, Virgil of Westfield; two sisters, Phillis Duval and Charlotte LaBlanc of Westfield; and a grandson.

The funeral was held at the church, and the burial was in Springfield Street Cemetery. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

John E. Warner

John E. Warner, 90, formerly of Sibley Street, Auburn, died at an Agawam nursing home.

He was a 40-year tool and die maker at the Worcester Wire Works, and retired in 1970.

Born in Worcester, he was a 1925 South High School graduate, and a long-time city resident.

He was a private pilot for many years, a motorcycle hill climber, and a semi-professional baseball player in the 1930's and 1940's. He pitched for the Worcester Wire Works team.

His wife, Dorothy E. (Hague), died in 1994. He leaves a son, John R. of Wilbraham; a brother, David of Worcester; two granddaughters; and a great-granddaughter.

A graveside service was held at Hope Cemetery in Worcester at the convenience of the family. Britton-Wallace Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hope Adoption Children's Fund, 27 Cedar Street, Worcester.

Gerald Cleary

Gerald Cleary, 49, of Westford, Vermont, died at home.

Born in Springfield, MA, he attended Agawam High School and was graduated from Dartmouth College and the University of Virginia Law School.

He leaves his wife, Marianne; two sons, Ian and Michael; a daughter, Kate; his mother, Carolyn Capitanio of Agawam; and a brother, Barry of Suffield, Connecticut.

The funeral was held at St. Luke's Church in Fairfax. Hayes-Rich Funeral Home of Fairfax was in charge of the arrangements.

A memorial Mass will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, at 9:00 a.m. at St. John the Evangelist Church.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Luke's Church Growth and Development Fund, P.O. Box 7, Fairfax, Vermont 05454-0007.

Evelyn A. Casavant

Evelyn A. (Johnson) Casavant, 99, of 34 Sunrise Terrace, Agawam, died in a local nursing home.

She worked for Sunshine Art Studios of Springfield, and retired in 1965. She was previously a 15-year assistant buyer for the former Forbes & Wallace Department Store of Springfield.

Born in New Bedford, she was raised and schooled in Springfield.

She moved to Agawam 47 years ago, and was a life member of the Golden Agers. She also belonged to the Friends of the Senior Center.

Her husband, Herbert J. Casavant, died in 1960. She leaves a daughter, Frances A. Murawski of Agawam; four grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home of Agawam, and a cremation and burial were scheduled.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Council on Aging, 68 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam, MA 01001.

Dennis W. Punch

Dennis W. Punch, 57, of Beldon, Connecticut, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a 30-year salesman for construction and industrial companies.

Born in the Bronx, New York, he lived in Springfield for 33 years.

He was a communicant of St. John's Church, a member of the Dante Club, and an Army veteran of the Vietnam War era.

He leaves his wife, the former Theresa G. Capitanio; a son, Denis W. of Agawam; two daughters, Katrina A. VanOrman and Regina T. Major of Chicopee; and a granddaughter.

The funeral was held at Agawam Funeral Home and the church, with the burial in Center Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

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Families

Scott M. Doscher Serves On State-Of- The-Art Cruiser

When Scott M. Doscher left Massachusetts in 1994, he went in search of education, experience, and adventure. In short, he joined the Navy.

Today Doscher, son of James and Martha Defilippi of Agawam, serves aboard the *USS Cape St. George*, a state-of-the-art, guided-missile cruiser, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia.

Doscher admits many different elements influenced his decision to enlist. "I joined the military because I wanted to earn college money and because the recruiter's stories interested me," said the 22 year-old. "My father has served in the Coast Guard, but it was the Navy that contacted me first."

And today aboard *Cape St. George*, the third-class petty officer is making a significant contribution on one of the Navy's modern cruisers.

Cape St. George has a critical role in the Navy's mission. Cruisers and destroyers have traditionally been the workhorses of the modern Navy, defending battle groups against threats from land, sea, and air. The cruiser, however, is the larger of the two, with an increased war-fighting capability for operating independently of the battle group when needed.

At the heart of *Cape St. George's* war-fighting capability is the computer-based Aegis weapons system, the centerpiece of which is a powerful radar that allows the crew to detect, track, and engage more than 100 targets at a time.

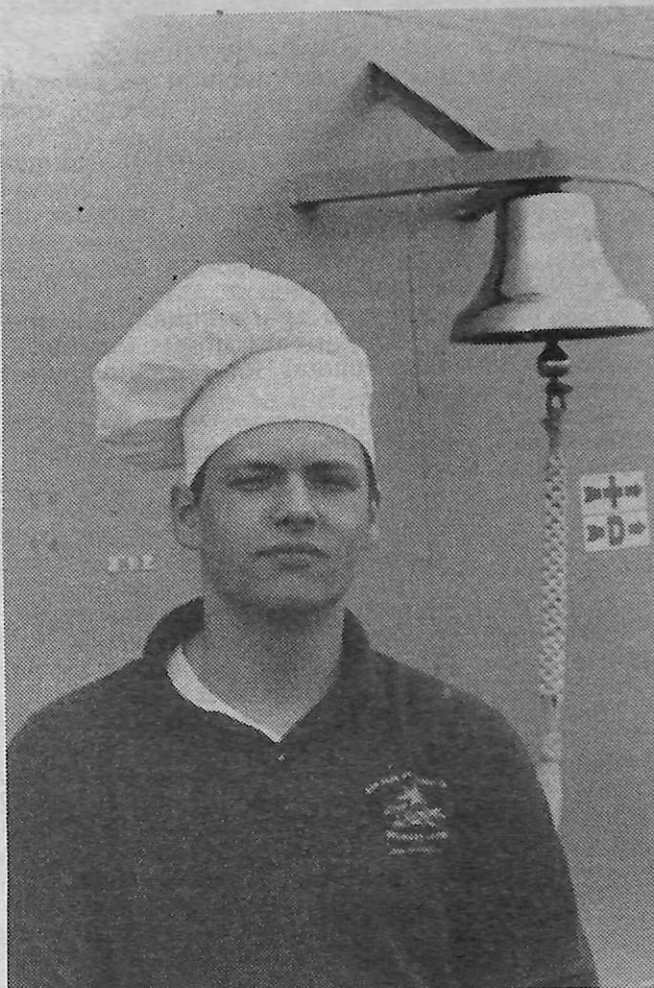
Cape St. George has the technology to rapidly launch the Tomahawk missile, which can hit targets hundreds of miles away. The ship also features Harpoon missiles and torpedoes, as well as the Close-in Weapons System, giving it both offensive and defensive capabilities.

As a mess management specialist, Doscher is, in essence, a Navy cook, ensuring his shipmates get three square meals a day.

"I'm the supervisor of the Officer's Dining Facility," said the 1994 graduate of Agawam High School. "I ensure the morale of our 30 officers stays high by providing them meals and taking care of their living areas."

And Doscher says his time in the Navy has been good to him.

"Some of the most important things I've learned in the Navy have been to be respectful to elders and more senior people, and how to better deal with hardships," he said. "I believe the military



SCOTT M. DOSCHER of Agawam, who is currently serving aboard the Navy cruiser *USS Cape St. George*.

has made me a better man than what I'd be if I hadn't joined. I'm physically fit, young and very mature, smart and very outgoing.

However, it hasn't been just work — Doscher says he's had the opportunity to do a lot of exciting things since he chose to enlist as well.

"I've enjoyed visiting so many different countries, I can't remember them all," he said. "I've also been swimming in the Mediterranean Sea, off the coast of Morocco, and in the Gulf of Mexico."

Doscher says he hopes to use the knowledge and experience he's gained in the Navy as a solid foundation for the rest of his life. But whenever he does decide to leave the Navy, he can always look back on his time in the sea service and know his service was valuable and appreciated.

Golden Age Clubs' Calendar Of Events For May 1998

CHAPTER 1

Friday, May 1st: Board of Directors' Meeting, Senior Center, 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13th: Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Guest speaker Sy Becker.

Thursday, May 14th: Trip - "Mother's Theme" at Independence Harbor With The "Shananagans."

Wednesday, May 27th: Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Special Memorial Program To Remember Deceased Members.

May 31st-June 3rd: Special trip to Amish Country with Sightseeing Tours.

New members are always welcome. Trip organizer, Ed Organek (786-2453); President, Jeannette Dore (786-4235).

CHAPTER 2

Wednesday, May 6th: Regular Meeting, 1:30 p.m. Entertainment provided by Melody Boys Plus One.

Wednesday, May 13th: Bus Trip to Lenox. Dinner & Show. "Moments to Remember."

Friday, May 15th: Bus Trip to Hinsdale Dog Track. Dinner Included.

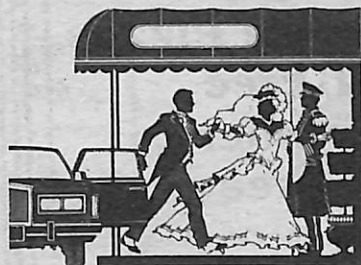
Wednesday, May 20th: Regular Meeting, 1:30 p.m. Scholarship Awards. Memorial Service. Program: Slides on Spain.

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deadline is each
Tuesday at 12:00
noon ... AAN!*

ADVERTISER NEWS

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AGAWAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL BREAKFAST MEETING

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1998

at

OAK RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB
850 South Westfield St., Feeding Hills

7:15 a.m. Registration & Coffee

7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast & Program

Please FAX your reservation to Jennifer Howland at FAX: 731-8530 by Friday, May 8, 1998 or mail to Agawam Chamber Breakfast c/o GSCC, 1350 Main St., Springfield, MA 01103

Please reserve _____ tickets at \$10.00 Agawam Chamber Breakfast - May 15th
Check enclosed _____ OR charge my VISA _____ MasterCard _____ AMEX _____ Discover _____

Name _____ Company _____
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Signature _____

Agawam Chamber of Commerce

Westfield Savings Donates To Leonard House



WESTFIELD SAVINGS BANK recently donated \$1,000 to the Captain Leonard House for the renovation of its Pine Room. From left to right: Marilyn Curry, Leonard House Trustee; James Loomis, President of the Trustees; and Donna Kennedy, Manager of Westfield Savings' Agawam office. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, May 4th: Hamburg gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, whole wheat bread, banana.

Tuesday, May 5th: Escarole soup, ham and broccoli, cheese quiche, zucchini and onions, applesauce.

Wednesday, May 6th: Baked chicken breast, stuffing with gravy, green beans, breadsticks, lemon pudding.

Thursday, May 7th: Sweet and sour ribs, Oriental rice, mixed vegetables, pumpernickel bread, pineapple, "fortune cookie."

Friday, May 8th: Mother's Day celebration — baked ham with raisin sauce, potatoes, pearl onions and peas, applesauce, dinner roll, rosebud cake.

Agawam Retired Employees Hold Meeting On Health Care Coverage And Social Security

On Tuesday, April 21st, the A.R.E. (Agawam Retired Employees) presented a well-attended program for members and spouses. At this writing, the association numbers 59 members and approximately 40 of those members attended.

The speakers were not only informative but entertaining and perhaps most people left with a better understanding of the differences between Medex and the new Blue Care 65, which is replacing HMO Blue as of July 1, 1998. One of the most important points was the advice to NOT give up your Medicare as it is a difficult, sometimes long,

and costly process to be reinstated.

The speaker from Social Security explained the history behind Social Security offsets to government pensions, but offered only a little encouragement for those affected. HR2273 is a bill to amend the GPO and is cosponsored by 51 representatives, among these cosponsors are four from Massachusetts, including Richard Neal.

The executive board will be monitoring the closing down of Hampden County government in regard to pension funds and the timely payment of the monthly checks. There are several other issues which affect some of our members and at

some point your help may be requested. We have developed a phone calling system for this purpose.

Our next regularly scheduled general meeting will be held in September with the date, place, and time to be announced. The next scheduled executive board meeting will be held on May 19th. If you have any concerns regarding your retirement, please contact one of the members of the board prior to this meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a member of A.R.E., please contact Chick Kistner.

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Golden Age Club's Chapter 1 Holds Installation Banquet

The Agawam Golden Age Club, Chapter 1, held its installation of officers for the coming year at the Colosseum Banquet House in West Springfield on April 22nd.

This has been a yearly event since April 16, 1957, when the Agawam Golden Age Club held its first installation at the Captain Leonard House in Agawam.

All the members joined their president, Mary DelNegro, in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The Chaplain, Evelyn O'Melia, then offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the food they were about to receive and the good health of everyone.

After an enjoyable meal, Mary DelNegro thanked the following members for serving on the banquet committee: Dolores Gatti (for attending to all the arrangement that is required in having the dinner there); Cecilia Rebecchi (for the entertainment); Rose Paro and Loretta Wright (for ticket sales); Eve DeGrandpre (for table sitting arrangement); Evelyn O'Melia and Florida Tangocci (for taking on the job as nominating committee; and Edward and Nellie Organeck (for doing the honors of installing new officers).

She also thanked the waitresses and waiters and the management for the wonderful meal and personal service that was given.

As the installing officer, Edward Organeck read the names of the new officers. His lovely wife, Nellie Organeck, serving as the marshall, escorted each one to the podium and pinned on their badges.

Mr. Organeck read them their duties and had them repeat their "Oath of Duties." He then called the new president to the podium and handed her the gavel with the advice, "This is the symbol of authority. Use it wisely."

The new officers are Jeannette Dore, president; Eleanor Geiger, vice president; Louise Balboni, recording secretary; Florida Tangocci, correspondence secretary; Dolores Gatti, treasurer; and Evelyn O'Melia, Chaplain.

President Jeannette Dore called Mary DelNegro, the outgoing president, to the podium and presented her with a beautiful black/walnut-inscribed plaque.

Mary DelNegro thanked all the members for their support of confidence and help during her two-year term as president, especially the officers and the volunteers who helped out at the meetings and special activities.

Program chairperson Cecilia Rebecchi introduced John Root as the musician for the afternoon. Mr. Root entertained the members by playing the piano, the flute, the clarinet, the saxophone, as well as encouraging the members to join him in singing many of the songs from the 30's and 40's. It was a pleasant day that was enjoyed by all.

Amer. Legion Slates Tag, Craft, & Bake Sale For May 16th-17th

The American Legion Auxiliary 185 will present a Tag, Craft, & Bake Sale on Saturday, May 16th from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 17th from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Cost for a 10-foot display table is \$20 for one day; \$25 for two days. Space is limited. Deadline for reservations is May 4th. To reserve space, call Mary Ellen at 789-9844.

Anyone wanting to donate anything for the Auxiliary may bring it to Tina at the bar. Thank you for your support!!

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THE NEWLY-INSTALLED OFFICERS of the Agawam Golden Age Club, Chapter 1: Jeannette Dore, President; Eleanor Geiger, Vice President; Dolores Gatti, Treasurer; Evelyn O'Melia, Chaplain; Louise Balboni, Recording Secretary; and Florida Tangocci, Corresponding Secretary. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



IN LEFT PHOTO: Installing officers Nellie & Edward Organeck with new Chapter I President Jeannette Dore. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Past President Mary DelNegro passes the gavel to new President Jeannette Dore. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

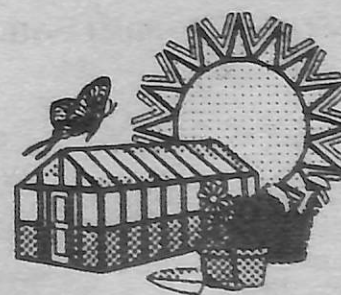
CALABRESE FARMS

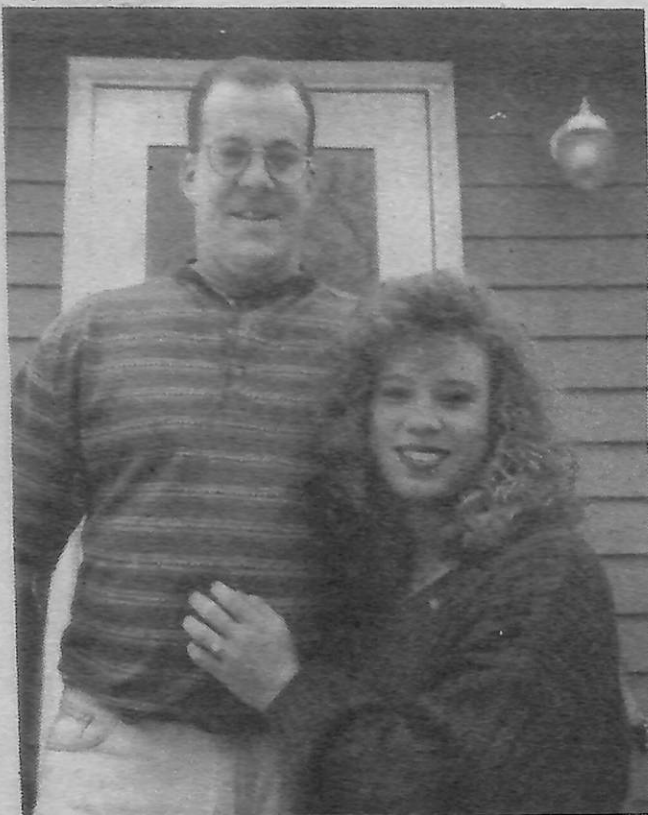
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TODD COUTURE AND KAREN MODZELEWSKI

Karen Modzelewski To Wed Todd Couture

Joseph and Donna Modzelewski of Agawam are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Karen Lynn, to Todd Anthony Couture. Todd is the son of Robert and Betty Couture of Feeding Hills.

Karen is a 1989 graduate of Agawam High School, and a 1993 graduate of Westfield State College. She is currently employed as an assistant manager for McDonald's.

Todd is a 1987 graduate of Agawam High School. He is currently employed by Longview Fibre Co. as a machine operator.

A July 1998 wedding is planned.

Spfld. Turnverein's "Liederabend" To Be Presented On May 2nd

On Saturday, May 2nd, the Springfield Turnverein of Agawam, located at 176 Garden Street in Feeding Hills, will hold its annual "Liederabend," which is an evening of singing.

A boneless pork loin roast dinner will be served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Reservations may be made with Christa at 786-0143.

This program is sponsored by the Ladies' Glee Club and the Men's Singing Section of the Club. Several selections will be presented following dinner.

"The Austrian Boys" will be with us to play for our dancing and listening pleasure.

If you are unable to attend the dinner, you are cordially invited to join us for the entertainment for the evening.

For any further information, please call the Club at 786-0924 or Christa.

Lioness Club To Hold Banquet On May 4th

The Agawam Lioness Club will hold its Annual Banquet at Storowton Tavern in West Springfield. The date is May 4th with cocktails being served at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m.

All members will be called for reservations. The new officers will be installed and scholarships will be awarded.

*Best
local
news...*

* * *

Celebrating Easter...



ON THURSDAY, APRIL 9TH, the Easter Bunny (a.k.a. Activity Director Lisa Parent) visited with residents of Heritage Hall's North Building, including Leona Gaudette and Olga Blanner. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Church News

Annual Meeting Slated At First Baptist Church

On Wednesday, May 6th, the all-church annual meeting will be held in Davis Hall at First Baptist Church, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Annual reports will be given by officers, committee chairpersons, and organization representatives. The nominating committee will present a list of nominees for office for the ensuing season.

There will be opportunity for any other business to be presented. All members are urged to attend this important meeting.

This Sunday, May 3rd, at 9:30 a.m., a service of communion will be held during morning worship. Pastor Richard Barnes' message will be "I Know Who I Am," using as his scriptural text John 10: 22-30.

Edith Gottsche, chairperson of the Board of Deacons, will lead the responsive reading. Greeters for the morning will include Nancy Strole and Emma Cross.

There will be a time of fellowship in Davis Hall following morning worship. Classes will be held for all ages until 11:45 a.m.

Nursery care will be provided.

The Religious Education Committee will meet at 6:30 p.m., immediately followed by a meeting of the Camp Scholarship Team.

All those concerned should take note.

On our calendar this week:

Monday, May 4th: 7:00 p.m., Sunshine Circle; 7:30 p.m., Amicitia Circle; 7:30 p.m., Men's Group; 7:30 p.m., Sister-to-Sister Group.

Tuesday, May 5th: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group; 7:00 p.m., Divorce Recovery Group.

Wednesday, May 6th: 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:30 p.m., All-Church Annual Meeting.

Thursday, May 7th: 10:00 a.m., Bell Choir Rehearsal; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

The annual meeting of the American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts will be held from May 7th through May 9th at the First Baptist Church in Pittsfield and the Berkshire Crown Plaza Hotel. This year's theme is "Share The Inheritance — Pass It On."

There will be great music, powerful speakers, practical workshops, and warm fellowship. For last-minute reservations or more information, call the church office, 786-7300.

Caring Connection contacts for the month of May are Janice Locke (tel. 789-6476) and Linda Chicklas (tel. 786-1565).

Catholic Women To Hold Banquet

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will hold its annual banquet on Tuesday, May 12th at the Storowton Carriage House on the grounds of The Big E.

A social period will begin at 6:00 p.m., and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

The banquet committee members are Rita Moore and Jean Brusseau, co-chairpersons, Peg Altobelli, Jennie Christopher, Antoinette Circosta, Alice Pietroniro, Evelyn Romano, Peg Saliba, Pat Sherry, Ann Sorel, Mary Tatro, and Mary Zajac.

Any club members who have not been contacted by phone are asked to contact Rita Moore.

**Best
local
news -**



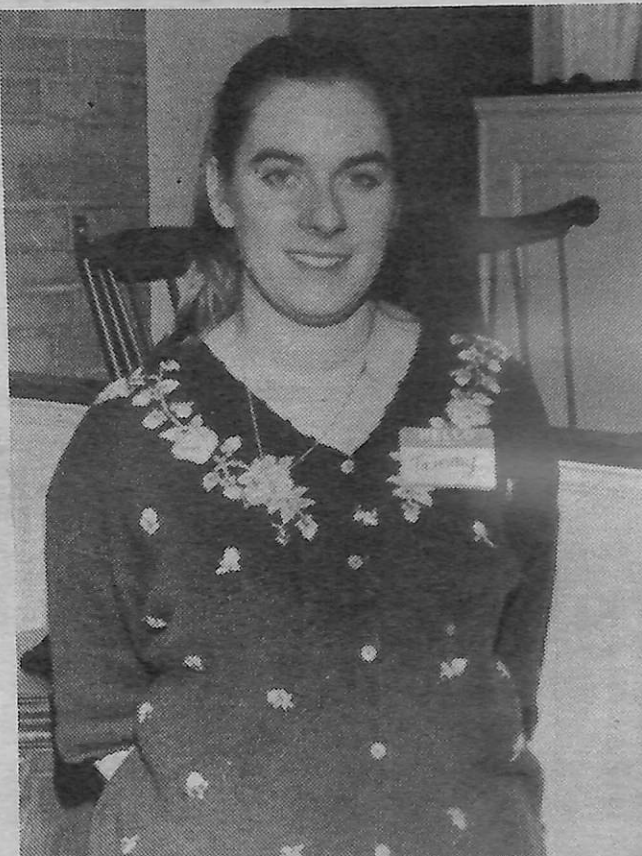
THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S Vacation Bible Camp, "The Easter Story Lives" (above), was recently held and led by the church's new Youth Advisor, Tammy Washburn (right). Registrations are now being accepted for the church's Summer Vacation Bible Camp (July 27th-31st); call 786-7111. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Tammy Washburn Is New Youth Advisor At Ag. Congregational

Tammy Washburn has been hired as the Agawam Congregational Church's new Youth Advisor. She will work closely with the Youth Committee and Youth Director and be responsible for the five different youth groups ranging from grade K through senior high.

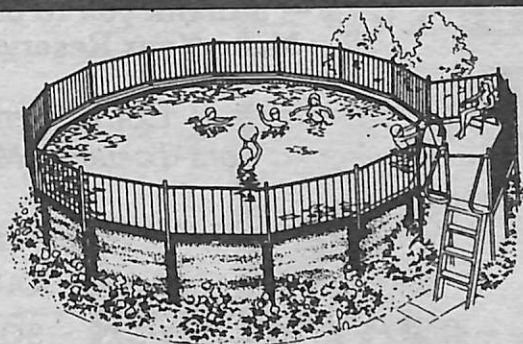
Tammy has been an active member of the church since 1990. She has been involved in youth Bible camp, Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship, and as a Church school teacher. She is currently a teacher assistant at the Agawam Middle School.

Tammy is presently continuing her education at Westfield State College, where she is an honors student in her senior year with a major in psychology.



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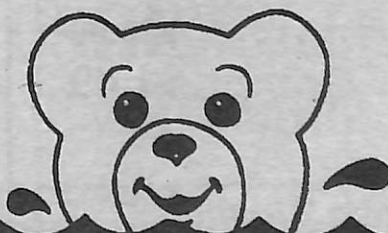
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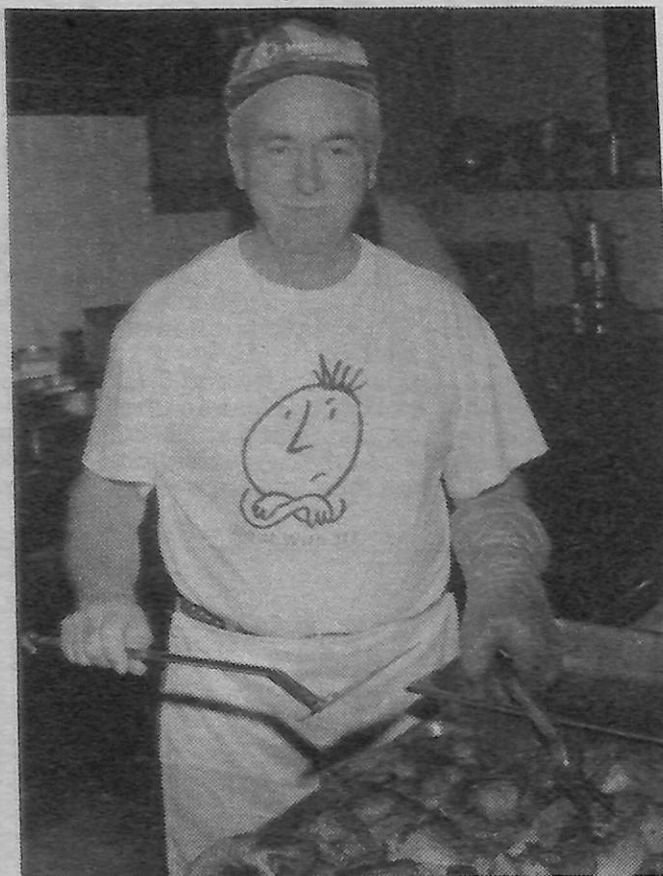
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Church News - continued...

At Valley Comm. ...



DALE PEARSONS (above) and BETTY KOPY and MELODY HILL (below) were on hand to help hungry parishioners at Valley Community Church's April 18th chicken supper. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



HENRY AND CLARA WANIEWSKI are about to enjoy their chicken suppers at Valley Community Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

News & Notes From F. Hills Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. and will include a Service of Holy Communion.

The lectionary readings for May 3rd, the fourth Sunday of Easter, will be Acts 9:36-43, Psalm 23, Revelation 7:9-17, and John 10:22-30.

The Lector will be Diane Fiejdasz. Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "The Good Shepherd."

Children are invited to attend worship with their parents, leaving at the appropriate time for Sunday School. Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

The Board of Christian Education will sponsor a Tag Sale/Car Wash/Bake Sale here at the church this Saturday, May 2nd, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Come on down and shop while your car is being washed. There will be lots of delicious goodies to bring home for a special treat!

A new Sunday School class has formed! If you are the parent of a pre-schooler, you will be interested in knowing that Debbie Donaldson, a certified teacher, has begun a class for your child.

The Wednesday morning Scripture Project Bible Study group will meet again on May 6th at 9:30 a.m. This is the last meeting for this series.

Speak with Rev. Bob if you are interested in forming another group.

The Board of Christian Education will sponsor another movie night on Friday, May 8th, at 7:00 p.m. There will be a parent discussion that evening also.

Bring some friends!

On the calendar:

Thursday, April 30th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:00 p.m., CE pricing for tag sale.

Friday, May 1st: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club.

Saturday, May 2nd: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., CE Tag Sale/Car Wash/Bake Sale.

Sunday, May 3rd: 10:00 a.m., Communion Sunday.

Monday, May 4th: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:30 p.m., Council.

Tuesday, May 5th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wednesday, May 6th: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, May 7th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.



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Pink Dogwoods

Starting At

Only \$39.00

Landscape Design & Planting

Church News - continued...**Good Shepherd To Hold Benefit Auction**

The Church of The Good Shepherd, 214 Elm Street, West Springfield, will hold a FABULOUS BENEFIT AUCTION on Saturday, May 2nd, at 11:00 a.m. Auctioneers Rose and Joe Rossi of Agawam will conduct this auction and will be available during the preview at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Auction Chairmen Mary Breyer, Hal Jenkinson, and Sandy Beals are delighted with the quality and variety of the donations made by parishioners for this auction. Many items have come from families with three, four, and five generations of involvement with the Good Shepherd parish.

The antiques, jewelry, collectibles, and heirloom and contemporary items that have been donated are outstanding and will be of interest to many auction-goers. This sale promises to have something for everyone!

At the preview, you may examine quilts, estate and costume jewelry, silver, silverplate, pottery, and porcelain. You will find fabulous Royal Doulton figurines, Nippon candlesticks and vase, pink Roseville, Haviland, Limoges, Sandwich and Depression Glass, and antique clothing.

For collectors, we have miniature glass and porcelain shoes, postcards, old toys, dolls, "Star Wars," sheet music, and vinyl records. We have antique and contemporary furniture, an electric console organ, train table, and a early painted pine chest.

For those looking for a bargain, we have sports autographs, Red Sox tickets, theater and movie tickets, many new items, and a great assortment of gift certificates.

Admission is free. There is no buyer's premium, and the auction is catered. For information, call the church at 734-1976.

St. David's Episcopal Church To Host Ham & Baked Bean Dinner

St. David's Episcopal Church will be hosting an old-fashioned ham and baked bean dinner on Monday, May 4th, at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will be held at St. David's Church, 699 Mill Street, Feeding Hills.

The menu will include baked ham, baked beans, garden salad, cole slaw, German potato salad, bread, bread pudding, and beverages.

Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$3 for children under 12. These may be purchased in advance from St. David's, or at the door.

Proceeds from this dinner will go towards the debt reduction of the new church building.

For more information, please call 786-6133.

Adoration Soc. To Meet On Fri., May 1st

The Nocturnal Adoration Society of Agawam and West Springfield will meet at Saint John's Church in Agawam to conduct and pray the Office of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday, May 1st from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

All are invited to come and spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration.

"Spring Smorgasbord" To Take Place On May 2nd At First Baptist

The First Baptist Church of Agawam, 760 Main Street, will present a "Spring Smorgasbord" on Saturday, May 2nd.

Featured will be fruit cup, baked beans, baked ham, turkey, Swedish meatballs, American chop suey, Harvard beets, green bean casserole, sauerkraut, potato salad, sunshine salad, cole slaw, relish tray, rolls, assorted homemade pies, and coffee, tea, or milk.

Servings will be at 4:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. Cost for adults is \$7 and \$3 for children under 10.

For reservations, call Emma at 786-8624 or Martha at 786-0337. If you make reservations and find you are unable to come, please call and cancel. Thank you.

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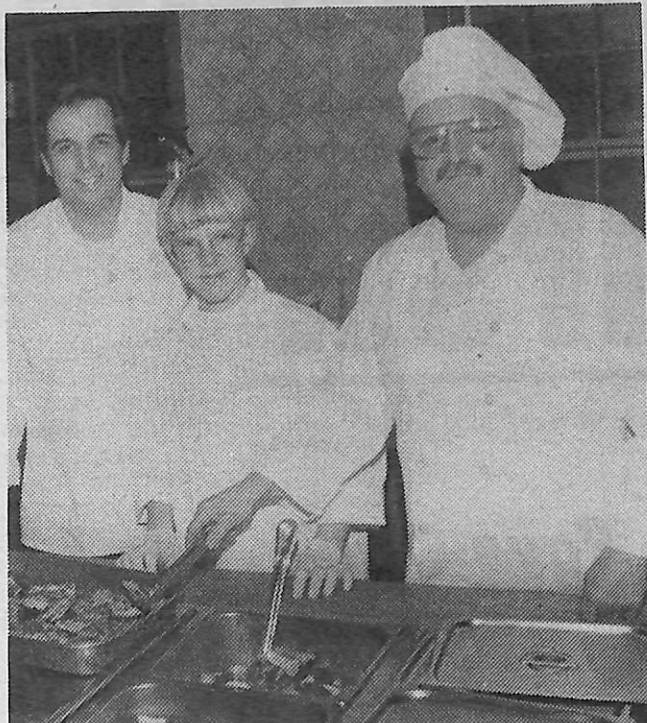
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Church News - continued...

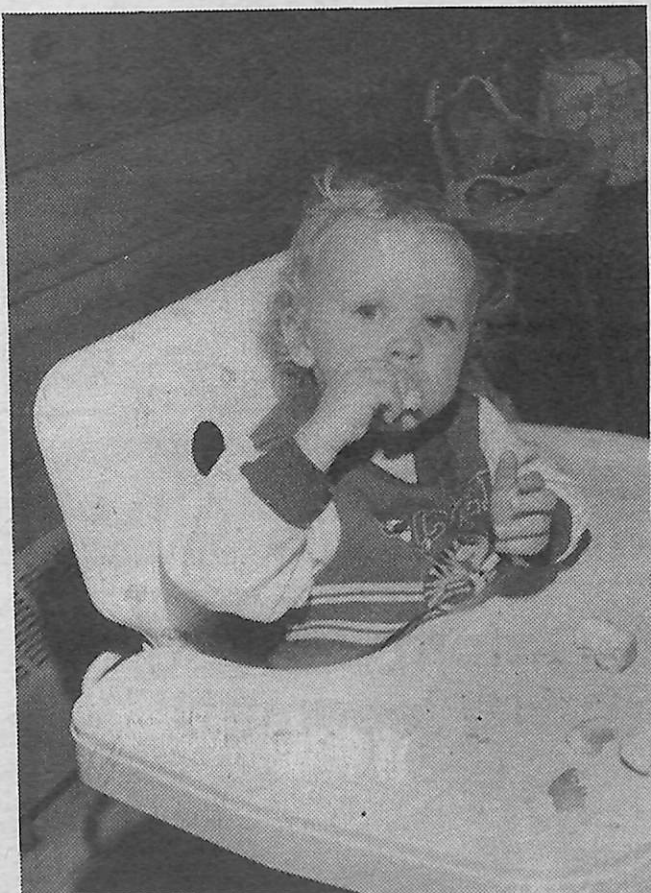
Mmm, Mmm, Good!!!



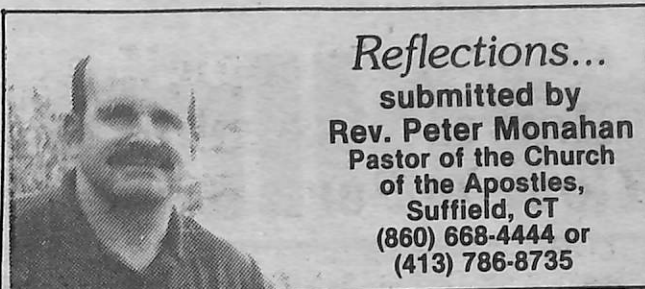
SERVING AS "CHEFS" at Agawam Congregational Church's chicken dinner: Chris Hamel, Jeff Woodard, and Jerry Hamel. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



SERVING CHICKEN DINNERS at Agawam Congregational Church: Crystal Mesick and Jen Mesick. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



TWO YEAR-OLD AIDAN PENDER enjoyed himself at Agawam Congregational's chicken dinner. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



Reflections...
submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church
of the Apostles,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

Jesus Validates Each Of Us As Having Intrinsic Value

Jesus said to His disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds!"

We can sometimes feel small and insignificant in comparison to a vast and huge world. But Jesus says to each of us, "Don't worry, God knows you and loves you more than you realize." Jesus validates each of us as having intrinsic value. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Jesus' validation of our self worth is meaningful only if Jesus really was raised from the dead. If Jesus is still dead in His grave, His words amount to nothing more than the musings of a dead guy. His message may or may not be correct. If Jesus was not actually raised, it might be possible that Darwin was right and that we amount to nothing more than biological accidents of evolutionary history waiting to die.

However, we can know for certain that Jesus was physically raised from the dead. We've examined the evidence presented by His followers, and found it to be compelling. Now let's consider the evidence presented by those who doubted Him all along.

It must have been a great disappointment to Jesus that His own brothers did not believe in Him. The Bible tells us, **For not even His brothers believed in Him.** They chided Him on occasion. After Jesus' resurrection, at least two of His brothers, James and Jude, came to believe in Him. In fact, James became one of the leaders of the Church and was the bishop of Jerusalem. What convinced the unbelieving brothers to believe in Jesus and to become leaders of the Church? Actually seeing their brother raised from the dead!

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

Saul later changed his name to Paul, and eventually became known to the world as the Apostle Paul. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Paul spread the Gospel and established churches over much of the Middle East and parts of Europe. The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write numerous letters to those and other churches, which became approximately two-thirds of the New Testament. Paul's conversion from enemy to evangelist was the direct result of his encounter with the resurrected Christ.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. The resurrected Christ confirms that we are not merely biological accidents of evolutionary history awaiting to die; we are actually valuable people. Friend and foe alike tell all who will listen that Jesus Christ actually rose from the dead, and that He is alive and well today, and stands ready to give eternal life to anyone who will receive it.

Rev. Peter Monahan's column, "Reflections...", is a regular feature of the ADVERTISER NEWS...

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Church News - continued...**BETHANY - from Page 1...**

The Reverend George Cope, senior pastor of Bethany, performed the Act of Dedication and prayer of dedication with the congregation. The Reverend Andrew Statezny, youth pastor, gave the benediction. The Youth Choir, directed by Brenda Flower, sang, as did the regular choir led by Reverend Bryars.

Special guests included Chris Riddle, architect; Laurie Frazier, interior designer; Jim Tarrant, construction manager; Bob Taupier, foreman; and Paul Kenyon of SIS Bank.

Guests from Southern New England Assembly of God were: Reverend Stanley; Reverend Harold Hidle, district secretary/treasurer; Rev. Harvey Meppelink, director of Church Development; and the Reverend Nick Serban, Youth and Christian Education.

The Building Committee included Bob Conti, Louis DiLorenzo, Vinnie DiLorenzo, Ed Hulseberg, Brad Martin, Frank Sunny, and Mark Watson.

Back In 1982...

On Easter Sunday 1982, the Bethany congregation moved from a building on Armory Street, Springfield, to the present facility on 57 acres at the corner of Route 57 and Main Street, Agawam.

"We came with no plans for expansion, but with the knowledge that we have the land if, or when, we decided to expand," Reverend Bryars, who is also in charge of communication, said. The new addition for youth has been five years in the planning.

"The project was estimated at a cost of \$2.9 million and is being completed for \$2.7 million, which is considerably under estimate," Reverend Bryars said.

The church has an average attendance of 1,300 at its two Sunday services, according to Reverend Cope. But there are also youth activities and children's services, and he estimated that 2,000 persons call Bethany their home.

In a special statement, Reverend Cope said, "We built this building for the purpose of investing in children and teenagers because they are our heritage and our next generation. It is not just a building for adults. Other churches view their responsibility to build a church for adults. We are looking to the next generation and generations to come."

"This building was built for and dedicated to children, so that we have the facilities to adequately train, educate, and nurture their lives in a biblical code of moral conduct and values. That is what this building is all about," Reverend Cope added.

The walls of the new wing are a soft, off-white and there is a fine-print wallpaper in the hallways. Carpeting in the new wing is a wine/mauve color, while the original section is bright blue. The coloring carries over to the Sanctuary, where even the seats are blue, while the new chapel seats and carpeting are more of a rose/mauve shade.

There is also an attractive Fireplace Room, with a handsome fireplace on the outer wall as a focal point and softly printed window dressing. Chairs around half a dozen or so large circular tables make a cozy setting for meetings or dining. It is located across the hall from the kitchen. There is also a print shop, and a music room with chairs on steps focused downward to the lower level and the piano.

The Bethany Pastoral Staff is: Reverend Cope, who has been senior pastor for 7½ years; Reverend Bryars; Reverend Peter Patterson, Family Life pastor; Reverend Statezny; and the Reverend James Grove, Evangelism pastor.

The church is looking for a new youth pastor as Reverend Statezny has resigned.

* * *

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that our
deadline is
Tuesday at
12:00 noon -
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* * *

"Chosen People" At Harvest Assembly Of God On Sun., May 3rd

Chosen People Ministries will be at Harvest Assembly of God on Sunday, May 3rd, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

The ministry has had an exciting history spanning more than a hundred years. In 1894, Rabbi Leopold Cohen founded the Brownsville Mission to Jews in Brooklyn, New York, after coming to believe Jesus was the Messiah of Israel.

He began the mission by holding meetings in a store which was a renovated horse stable. What began as a small storefront ministry to Jewish people has grown to the world's leading Messianic Jewish ministry.

The Bible declares that the gospel is "first for the Jew then the Gentile." Come hear the teaching of the Word of God and what God is doing through this exciting ministry. The messages will include the "4 Feasts of Israel" and "The Church & Jewish People." The Rev. Daniel Schnaider will be speaking.

The church is located at 121 Union Street (near the I.H.O.P. restaurant) in West Springfield. For more information, you may call the church at 739-1234. Infant care is provided.

1st Western Mass. Handbell Festival Slated For May 16th

The first Western Massachusetts Handbell Festival will be held on May 16th at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on Lathrop Street in West Springfield.

The participating bell choirs come from six of the area's churches: Agawam Congregational, Church of the Good Shepherd in West Springfield, Foster Memorial Church in Springfield, Southwick Congregational Church, Suffield Congregational Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield.

Each group will play individually and then all will come together for a final mass ringing. This event is sponsored by the West Springfield Parish and Interfaith Association as a fundraiser for the West Springfield/Agawam Open Pantry.

Tickets are \$5 per person and may be purchased in any of the churches in the West Springfield Parish Association or the Open Pantry at 1023 Main Street in West Springfield.

Tickets will be available at the door only if they are not sold out prior to May 16th. Reservations may be made by contacting Cassie Gilmartin at 734-7969 or 736-5242 evenings.

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Weekly Calendar Of Events From Ag. Congregational

On Saturday, May 2nd, the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups will hold a Car Wash at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Come have your car washed and support the youth for their many activities.

This Sunday, May 3rd, begins the "Faith in Action" series for the ninth grade Church School class. At the 9:00 a.m. class, they will hear from many different speakers about how their faith helps them in their daily lives.

This is also the Fourth Sunday of Easter. At the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, we will celebrate Family Communion. There will not be any Church School so that all children will be able to attend the Family Communion Service.

Rev. Fuller's Sermon will be: "I Shall Not Want," taken from Text: Psalm 23. His Children's Message will be: "Wants & Needs."

Join us for this special Family Worship Service.

The Adult Education Class is now on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m., following the Midweek Worship beginning Wednesday, May 6th, under the leadership of Rev. Curt D. Fuller.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is peanut butter.

Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

The Catering Committee is having a Ham & Bean Dinner on Saturday, May 16th, at 5:30 p.m. The menu will include baked ham & raisin sauce, baked beans, potato salad, cornbread, dessert, and beverages.

The cost is \$7 for adults, and \$4 for children. Mark your calendars today!

The Eighth Annual Charlie McCobb Memorial Golf Tournament will take place on Saturday, June 13th. The shotgun start is at 1:00 p.m., and there will be several hole-in-one prizes — including a \$10,000 hole-in-one!

The player fee is \$35 (which includes green fee, cart, and meal). Pre-register by June 8th and save \$10 (the fee will be only \$25).

Hole sponsors (\$50) and patrons (\$10) are needed, and business ads cost \$25. All golfers are welcome — men, women, seniors, and juniors.

Call the church office, 786-7111, for more information.

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another reason why
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each and every
week ... AAN!!!**



*"As a mother comforts
her child, so will
I comfort you."*

- Isaiah 66:13

**Happy Mother's Day from all of us at St. David's
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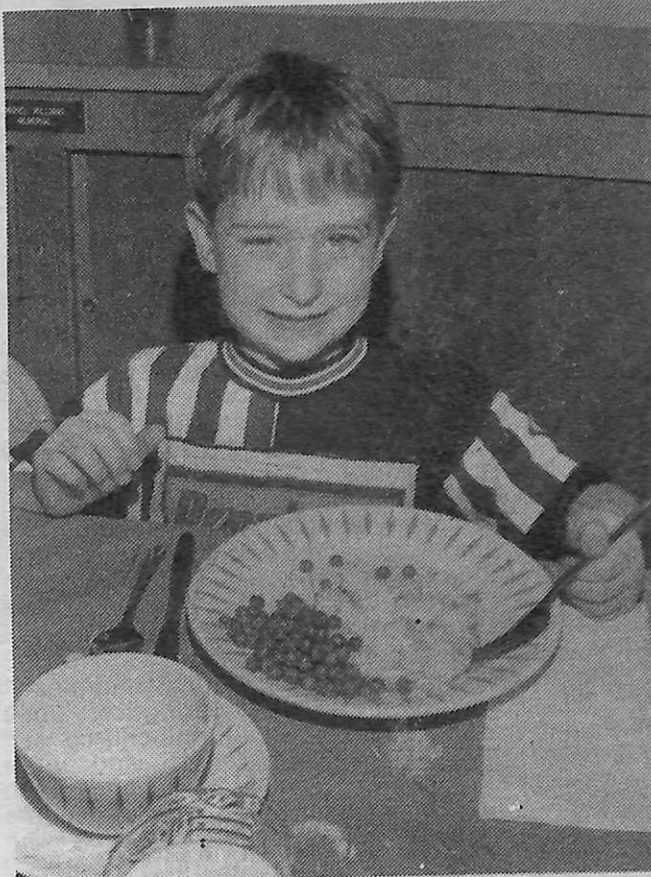
"RECONCILING AND TRANSFORMING LIVES IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD"

Church News - continued...

Roast Beef Dinner At Agawam United Methodist...



PAUL BROZ, COREY DROUIN, AND STEPHEN GORDON were busy in the kitchen at Agawam United Methodist's roast beef dinner, which was held on Saturday, April 18th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



"BE SURE TO EAT YOUR VEGETABLES!": Six year-old Douglas Telford left his potatoes and peas for last at the roast beef dinner at Agawam United Methodist. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



"CHEFS-IN-THE-MAKING" Corey Perry and Jeremy St. Peter were all smiles while working at the Agawam United Methodist Church's April 18th roast beef dinner. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam United Methodist Church Invites Those Who Are Seeking A Place Of Worship

Looking for a place of worship? Welcome to the Agawam United Methodist Church, 459 Mill Street, Feeding Hills.

Time of worship is 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is vibrant! Bring your children.

Working adults energetically demonstrate the love of Christ for others through their neighborhood clean-up project.

Life is maintained and shared as the process of visioning continues, and keeps us in touch with the future church and as faithful attendance at bible study informs and inspires our walk as disciples of the Living Christ.

Come, hear, and receive God's Word of Love empowerment for the week ahead or for the tasks to which we are being selected.

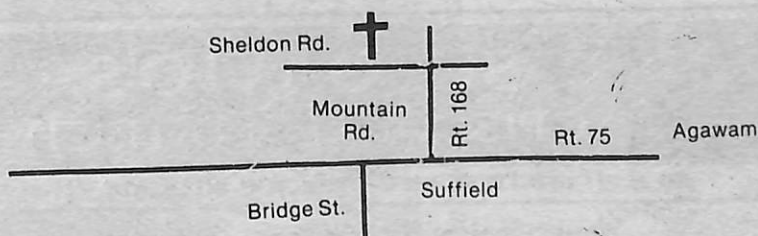
Why not surprise your "loved ones" with a birthday ad in The AAN? They cost just \$30, so bring in your today...



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Spotlight On Business

Riverside Park Opens For The 1998 Season...



IN LEFT PHOTO: Just two of the "cuddly characters" who were on hand to welcome the public at Riverside Amusement Park on its opening day for 1998 — Saturday, April 25th. In RIGHT PHOTO: Riverside's Vice President/General Manager Bill Muirhead and Mayor Christopher C. Johnson at The Gazebo at Riverside during opening-day festivities. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

THE PIONEER GROUP Announces Staff Members

THE PIONEER GROUP, the largest real estate firm in Western Massachusetts that services homebuyers exclusively, is proud to announce the following...

- James C. Wyllie of Ludlow has become a Senior Associate with the firm and is now responsible for managing its Ludlow Marketing Division.
- Veronica Ferriera has joined THE PIONEER GROUP as an Exclusive Buyer's Agent and will be focusing on serving first-time homebuyers.
- Jeffrey M. Rose was named to the position of Client Services Manager and will be working out of the company's regional office in West Springfield.
- Michael J. Miller was named an Exclusive Buyer's Agent and will focus on serving first-time homebuyers.
- Jill Kozaczka, a Senior Associate with the firm, was awarded its company's Client Satisfaction Award for her high levels of service during the first quarter of 1998.
- Elena Acevedo has become an Exclusive Buyer's Agent with THE PIONEER GROUP. Elena is bilingual and will focus on servicing first-time buyers.
- Joan Thompson was named an Exclusive Buyer's Agent and will be working in the Longmeadow/East Longmeadow Marketing Division.
- Robert Szczygiel has recently joined the firm as an Exclusive Buyer's Agent and will be working in the Chicopee Marketing Division.
- Gary Lucia has been named the company's Internet Administrator and will be responsible for the design and content of the company's Internet web site.

As Exclusive Buyer's Agent, THE PIONEER GROUP morally, legally, and ethically represents homebuyers only ... and, as opposed to most other real estate firms that represent both buyers and sellers, by representing buyers only, it avoids any potential conflicts of interest involved in purchasing a home.

For more information for their services, along with the ability to shop for homes online, please visit their award-winning web site at www.pioneer-group.com or call 731-6800 to speak directly to an associate.

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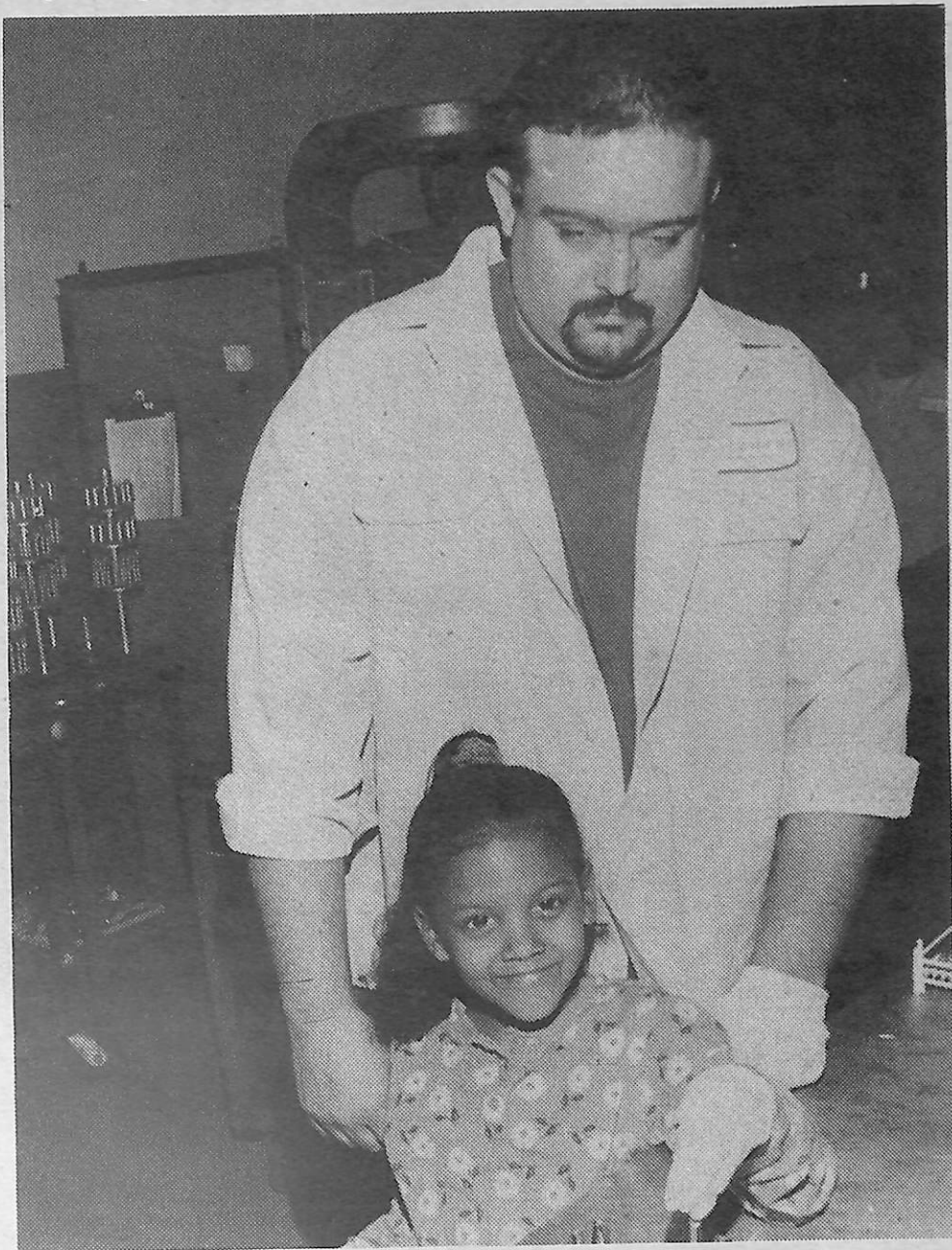


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Spotlight On Business - continued...



IN LEFT PHOTO: Angel Santiago with one of his daughters at Balzers Tool Coating during "Take Our Daughters To Work Day." IN RIGHT PHOTO: Amy Durgin, Ashley Keeney, Melissa Bostock, Gail Keeney, and Monica Keeney at Balzers. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Employees At Balzers Tool Coating Participate In "Take Our Daughters To Work Day"

On April 23rd from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., 11 girls accompanied their parents throughout the workday at Balzers Tool Coating, Inc., 30 General Abrams Dr., Agawam as part of the Ms. Foundation for Women's Annual TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK DAY.

The girls worked in the office and assisted in the shop with supervised tool fixing and packing. The girls had an agenda to follow for the day to give them the opportunity to work in all locations. They also had lunch brought in for them paid by Balzers Tool Coating, Inc. and received certificates and t-shirts presented to them by manager Dennis J. Perry at the end of the day.

This is the fourth year that Balzers Tool Coating, Inc. has participated in this program under the direction of Dennis J. Perry, coating

center manager. In 1994, Balzers began with two girls participating, and this year welcomed 11 girls.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS TO WORK is a day for

girls to be visible, valued, and heard. On this day, girls are exposed to a range of life options. They are given reason to believe in their education and to stay in school.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

Riverside Park Awards Maintenance Workers...



"PERFORMANCE AWARD" recipients Brian Allaire and Mike Fleury (above) and "Maintenance Person of the Month" Dave Jenks (below) are congratulated by Riverside's Maintenance Director Rick Neis. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



RICK NEIS (center), Director of Maintenance at Riverside Amusement Park, with maintenance employees who've received various "Performance Awards": Bill Mahoney, Rocky Picard, Pete Ledwith, and Brian Allaire. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

The PIONEER GROUP To Sponsor A Free Public Service Workshop On May 9th

The offices of **The PIONEER GROUP** is sponsoring a free public service workshop entitled "Buying a Home ... What the Banks Don't Tell You."

It will be held Saturday morning, May 9th, between the hours of 10:00 and 11:45 a.m. at the West Springfield Professional Center, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 21, in West Springfield.

Topics to be discussed include the various government federal loan programs that are currently available to first-time and move-up buyers; understanding points and closing costs, and how to minimize these fees; understanding seller contributions; the difference between a bank and a mortgage company, and which one offers the better value; and much more.

The information contained in this seminar may save today's first-time and move-up buyers thousands of dollars.

Speakers at the workshop will include Donald Thompson, a Principal of **The PIONEER GROUP**, and Raymond Rose, a retired mortgage banker.

The workshop is free of charge and reservations are suggested (their last seminar was filled to capacity). For more information, please listen to the recorded info message at 846-0981, and for reservations, please dial 731-6800.

Those that attend the workshop will receive a free copy of their credit report along with an application for a free mortgage pre-approval.



Pam Savioli

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Pricing To Sell

When setting the price for your home, there are several factors to consider. With the help of your sales associate, you can evaluate everything from market conditions to neighborhood influences. Your sales associate can also show you comparable homes that have sold or are for sale in your neighborhood.

Many sellers say, "Let's try to sell our home at a high price - then if it doesn't sell, we can lower the price." That's not the right thinking for selling your home. It's important to set the right price from the beginning because setting a high price may limit the number of buyers. A high price may cause buyers to view your house with suspicion - ultimately hurting your bottom line. You may actually get less for your home if you overprice at first.

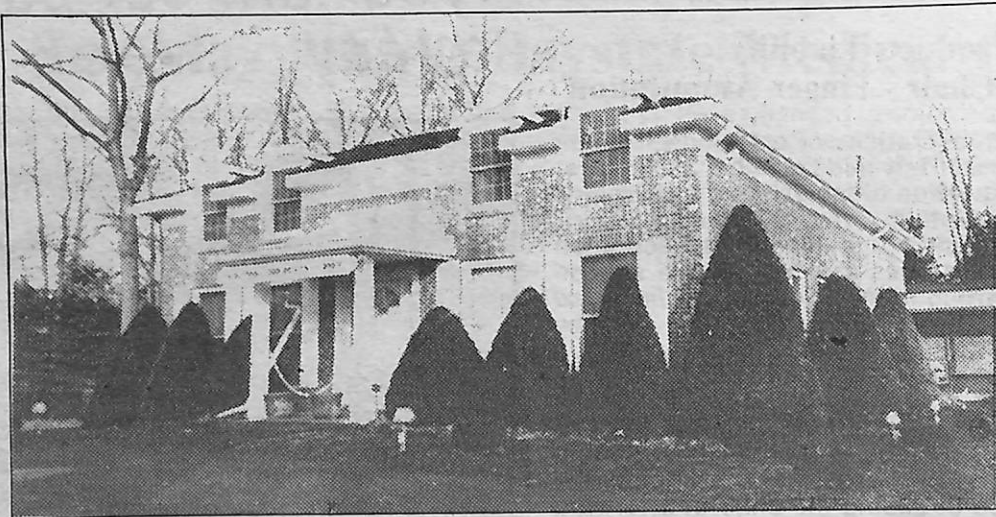
When setting the price, realize that what you paid for your home will not impact the current price paid - but market conditions and the willingness of a buyer to pay the price you ask are the important factors.

Leave room in your asking price for negotiating. Often, a price about five percent over the fair market value gives you bargaining room.

And remember, there really is no best time to sell your home. Strong or weak market conditions, variables in financing, and your schedule are all part of the selling equation.

For more information about selling your home, Call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

Drs. Joseph M. & Katherine S. Schlaffer



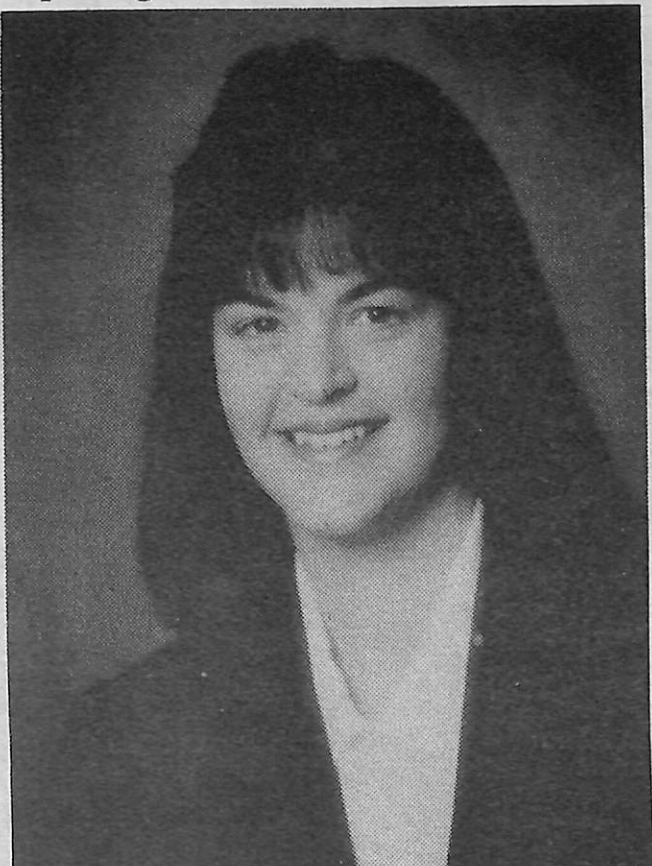
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Spotlight On Business - continued...

JILL S. MESSICK

Jill S. Messick Is Promoted By Easthampton Bank

At Easthampton Savings Bank's recent annual meeting, President William S. Hogan, Jr., announced that Jill S. Messick of Feeding Hills has been named Residential Mortgage Officer.

Messick has over 10 years of banking experience, and from 1993-1997, she worked at National City Mortgage as a Branch Supervisor.

She is a graduate of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and has her Real Estate Law Certificate from Westfield State College.

Legal Memo

by
Alan J. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



Products Liability: Collapsed Chair - Finger Amputation

Injuries were lacerations of both index fingers and amputation of left middle finger to the first phalange, aggravation of pre-existing back injury, and loss of consortium.

In 1996, the plaintiff sustained finger laceration and amputation injuries as a result of a sudden collapse of a wrought-iron folding chair imported and distributed by one defendant and sold by another defendant.

The plaintiffs alleged that the folding chair, in the absence of a spring latch or other safety mechanism not present, was defective and unreasonably dangerous in that the seat bottom separates from the seat back through the foreseeable use of sliding the chair in a forward and upright manner.

The plaintiffs alleged that the merchants knew or should have known of the defective design and that the national distributor/importer was deemed to be the manufacturer because it marketed and sold the product under its name and not that of the manufacturer.

Through discovery, the plaintiffs learned that there were eight prior hand accidents involving the folding chair at issue. In addition, the plaintiffs also alleged that the national importer/distributor was aware of alternative feasible designs manufactured by the same manufacturer which did not contain the same defect.

The 71 year-old plaintiff sustained injuries, including the finger amputation, permanent scarring and disfigurement, permanent loss of range and motion in his left hand, as well as a likely permanent loss of sensation in his left index finger.

The settled at mediation with the plaintiff receiving \$250,000.00.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts.

Westbank Corporation Announces 1998's 1st Quarter Results

Consistency of performance has become the cornerstone of Westbank Corporation as demonstrated by the financial results for the first quarter of 1998.

Net income for the quarter ended March 31, 1998 was \$839,000, or \$0.22 per share, a \$202,000, or 32 percent increase over the \$637,000, or \$0.19 per share, for the same period in 1997, according to Donald R. Chase, President and Chief Executive Officer of Westbank Corporation.

"Our first quarter performance is the result of maintaining a healthy net interest margin at 4.49 percent, a reduction in the loan loss provision and an increase in non-interest income of \$102,000 versus the same quarter one year ago," Chase said.

As of March 31, 1998, investments increased to \$59.8 million while net loans totaled \$236.5 million and total assets were at \$316.4 million. Asset growth was funded by growth in deposits of \$12.7 million and an increase in borrowings of \$4.3 million.

For the first quarter of 1998, the Corporation's book value was \$6.75 while earnings represented an annualized return on average assets of 1.10 percent and return on average equity of 13.56 percent. At March 31, 1998, the Corporation's capital totaled \$25.3 million representing a capital ratio of eight percent.

Westbank's newest full service Ludlow office will open in May and plans are on the drawing board to open another full service office in the town of Southwick within the next six months.

"As we move forward, our focus is to build upon our solid foundation. Particular areas of emphasis in 1998 will be our goals of increased lending volume, growth in non-interest income, maintenance of asset quality, and the control of overhead expenses. In addition, we will continue to pursue strategic growth. We must pursue these goals while retaining our focus on superior customer service and, above all, the enhancement of our shareholders' investment," Chase said.

Westbank is a full service commercial bank with offices in Chicopee, Holyoke, East Longmeadow, Feeding Hills, Ludlow, West Springfield, Westfield, and three supermarket branches.



ARTHUR F. THOMAS

New Branch Mgr. At Westbank's Mittineague Office

Arthur F. Thomas has been promoted to Branch Manager, Mittineague Office, at Park West Bank and Trust Company, according to Donald R. Chase, President and Chief Executive Officer.

After graduating from Westfield State College, where he majored in Marketing Management and received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business, Thomas embarked on his banking career as a Management Intern at a major commercial bank.

Thomas brings to Westbank five years of banking experience, including branch supervising, loan processing, and customer development and retention.

He is involved in a number of civic organizations, including coaching a boys' basketball team at the Martin Luther King Community Center in Springfield.

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Repetitive Strain Injury

Question: I was recently diagnosed with repetitive strain injury (RSI). The pain involves my wrists, neck, back, and eye strain. I work in a confined space on a computer for most of the work day. Any suggestions?

Answer: Repetitive stress, repetitive strain, or cumulative trauma disorders are "overuse" syndromes and occur when a particular body part is subjected to repeated motions over prolonged periods. Accepting this premise for many of these conditions should be questioned.

When workers first started to claim workers' compensation for their computer-related injuries, repetitive motion was singled out as the perpetrator. Currently the pain and discomforts of computer users are captured under the umbrella term of cumulative trauma disorders (CTDs), and usually repetitive strain injury (RSI) is the diagnosis.

Logic, however, tells us something different. With the exception of the fingers, there is no repetitive motion involved with computing. Therefore, how can user complaints of eyestrain, headaches, low back pain, shoulder pain, and neck pain be explained using the repetitive motion concept?

The more of these cases I see, the more I'm convinced that poor posture and incorrect motion is the cause rather than repetitive motion. Tennis elbow, for example, may not be caused by the number or strokes, but rather the number of strokes done incorrectly.

Movement, if done with proper body mechanics and with sufficient rest breaks, enhances body functions. Look at athletics. Repetitive motion is the principle by which athletes strength and develop muscles. A runner who continually trains gets more stamina, not less. The heart is a muscle that is in perpetual motion and exercising it only makes it stronger. Repetitive motion is the concept physical therapists use to rehabilitate injured joints.

Since repetitive motion is good for us, the medical complaints commonly related to computer usage is poor or aberrant posture.

In my next column, I will further explore mechanics of these conditions and suggest some solutions.

If you suffer with RSI or CTD, our office at 192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam may provide the answer. 789-1369.

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Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Taste Tips For Using Dried Herbs And Spices

Food is one of life's great pleasures. Around the world, across all cultures and ages, people love to eat.

While many factors influence the types of food we eat, taste dominates all other reasons for how we make food choices. And, contrary to popular belief, delicious foods can also be healthy.

The explosion of flavors in dishes today can be credited to the large variety of herbs, spices, and seasonings that are now widely available. From familiar to exotic, these seasonings can enhance the flavor of foods so you can enjoy them without guilt.

And, these flavors are as close as your spice cabinet!

Nutritious And Delicious...

With the right combination of dried herbs, spices, and seasonings, healthful foods can be as delicious as they are nutritious. Following are some helpful hints for adding flavor to some of your favorite dishes:

- Over time, herbs and spices lose strength and color. Give your herbs and spices an annual "sniff test" by sprinkling a small amount into your hand and crushing it; if a rich aroma doesn't immediately rise up to greet you, it's past its prime. Sealed containers such as glass jars lock in freshness best.

- Keep dried seasoning blends handy for easy, instant flavor enhancement of everything from steamed fish fillets to fresh-cooked vegetables or roasted new potatoes.

Enhancing The Flavor Of Foods...

While herbs, spices, and seasonings serve as flavor enhancers in food, their common characteristic is that they are either low in sodium or sodium-free and fat-free. Thus, they are ideal for individuals who need to limit sodium and/or fat intake but want added flavor.

Herbs: Herbs provide color and a range of distinctive flavors. Examples of herbs include basil, bay leaf, garlic, oregano, rosemary, and thyme.

Spices: Spices enhance the natural sweetness of foods and are an important part of the complex flavors of ethnic cuisines. Examples of spices include cinnamon, ginger, cumin, and nutmeg.

Seasoning blends: Perfect blends of complementary seasonings provide unique, complex flavors all in one. Examples of seasoning blends include chili powder and curry powder.

Here are some ideas for healthful snacking using dried herbs, spices, and seasonings...

Pizza craving: Spread a toasted English muffin, bagel half, or pita bread half with a spoonful of canned diced tomatoes in puree. Sprinkle with garlic powder, oregano leaves, grated fat-free or low-fat cheese, and a slice of reduced-fat pepperoni or diced Canadian bacon. Broil until cheese bubbles.

Roll-up with cinnamon cream: Warm a small flour tortilla in a non-stick skillet or microwave. Mix a tablespoon each of low-fat ricotta, plain yogurt, and cottage cheese with a teaspoon of fruit preserves; sprinkle with cinnamon or nutmeg. Roll up.

Gingered wonton crisps: Cut wonton skins into triangles and place on a baked sheet. Brush with a mixture of 1 tablespoon water, 1 tablespoon sesame oil, 1 teaspoon ground ginger, and ½ teaspoon onion powder. Bake at 375°F until crisp and golden.

Chickpea poppers: Drain a 15-ounce can of garbanzo beans (chick peas); add ¼ cup balsamic vinegar, garlic powder, crumbled rosemary, basil, or marjoram, and a touch of olive oil. Blend in a food processor until creamy, adding more balsamic vinegar for desired consistency. Served with warmed pita triangles.

Ethnic Seasonings...

Ethnic cuisines high in flavor yet low in fat, calories, and sodium offer the opportunity to explore new tastes. Turn everyday fare into international treats with these flavors from around the world:

Mexican: Cayenne pepper, chili powder, cilantro, cinnamon, cumin, garlic powder, jalapeno peppers.

Italian: Anise, basil, crushed red pepper, fennel, garlic powder, oregano, rosemary, sage.

Chinese: Chinese 5-spice, crushed red pepper, garlic powder, ground ginger, sesame seed, white pepper, whole red chilis.

Thai: Basil, cilantro, cinnamon, crushed red pepper, garlic powder, ground ginger, mint, turmeric, whole red chilis.

Greek: Cinnamon, dill weed, garlic powder, mint, onion powder, oregano, paprika.

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association.

Skin Cancer Screening Program Slated For May 9th At Baystate Medical Center

Baystate Medical Center, in conjunction with dermatologists from throughout the Springfield area, will hold a free Skin Cancer Screening Program on Saturday, May 9th, from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. in its Wesson Memorial Building, C-Level, on High Street, Springfield.

The clinic is intended to screen new growths which are less than one year old, or old growths

that have changed in color, size, shape, pain level, irritation, or bleeding. The clinic is not intended for skin rashes or for those persons who have seen a dermatologist in the past six months.

Screenings are by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, call The Professionals at 794-2255, or outside the Springfield calling area at 1-800-377-HEALTH.

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Support Groups, Courses, And Programs At Noble

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Better Breathers: Monday, May 11th, 2:00 p.m. In the Cardio Pulmonary Classroom (3rd Floor) at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals with pulmonary difficulties and their support persons.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesdays, May 13th and May 27th, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their support persons.

The topics will be "Speech and swallowing difficulties after a stroke," facilitated by Barbara Boulanger, MSW, LICSW (May 13th), and "Post-stroke depression," also facilitated by Barbara Boulanger (May 27th).

Diabetes Support Group: Tuesday, May 26th, 1:00 p.m. In Conference Room A.

Free of charge and open to all suffering from diabetes and their support persons.

Philip Spigarelli, R.Ph., Director of the Pharmacy at Noble Hospital, will speak to the group about "Diabetes and your medication."

COURSES/PROGRAMS:

Cosmetic/Plastic Surgery: Tuesday, May 19th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. At Noble Hospital.

Gary E. Russolillo, M.D., will present a lecture about Body Contouring Surgeries, Lip Enhancements, Facial Surgeries and Skin Care Procedures. Also included will be a live chemical peel demonstration.

The presentation will be followed by a complimentary personal consultation. Pre-registration is required. For free registration, call Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: 1988 Spring Schedule - May 7th and May 21st. At Noble Hospital's Sports & Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

This clinic is held on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of every month from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Athletic injuries are evaluated by a certified athletic trainer and, based upon the evaluation, remedial exercises or physician referral may be recommended.

For an appointment, call 562-3522.

CPR Course: Wednesdays, May 20th and May 27th (two-part course), 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Education Department/Ground Floor at Noble Hospital.

This course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant certification. Cost of the course is \$40.

To register or obtain more information, call the Noble Hospital Education Department at (413) 568-2811, ext. 5914.

Bicycle Safety Rodeo: Saturday, May 9th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. At Noble Hospital's West Silver Street Parking Lot. Sponsored by Noble Hospital, Westfield Police Department, Community Police Unit, Westfield Kiwanis Club.

Featuring: Free Bicycle Raffle, Obstacle Course, Bicycle Inspections, Certificate of Completion, BMX Demonstrations, Police and Fire Department EMT Bicycle Patrols, and free hot dog and drink for all participants.

Registration is free and open to children 16 and under. For more information, call 562-4597 or Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

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Chiropractic Care

by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic
Physician

Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
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The Lowdown On "Muscles"...

(This week's column is written by Sharon Broggi. Sharon is a massage therapist and owner of Touch of Comfort Massage Therapy, located in the offices of Hampden County Chiropractic.)

Muscles have two functions. They contract and they release. Contraction does work; that is, it expends energy. The release of the muscle is an absence of work.

So it would seem like our bodies should relax as soon as we consciously stop doing work, doesn't it? When we sleep or watch TV or just pause for a moment, our muscles should let go, right?

But it doesn't seem to work that way. Oh, maybe it would if we spent even a fraction as much time teaching our muscles to relax as we do to contract, but we don't. In fact, our society barely seems to recognize any need to do so.

America is the land of the work ethic. We work hard and we play hard. The importance of exercise is extolled in the news and in advertisements. We accept the importance of hard work to get ahead and of regular exercise to stay healthy because we recognize the fundamental truth behind it. It just makes sense.

But what about relaxation? We do recognize the need to relax; we know that stress makes us uncomfortable both physically and emotionally. Relaxation balances our bodies. It allows a host of activities to take place that we need for good health, from better circulation to improved immune function. But we assume that the release of muscle-holding patterns happens automatically, so we pay it comparatively little attention.

Remember that the training we all have in con-

traction begins when we are babies. As babies, we explore our world with our senses and our bodies, and in so doing we teach our bodies muscular coordination. Our parents teach us to play catch, to ride a bicycle, to write the alphabet — more training in coordination, which also builds strength.

More contraction/stretching — encouraging the release of muscles — receives very little attention in physical education, Little League, or even in high school sports. Meditation — a change to "let things go" mentally that translates well into a physical effect — is a track off the beaten path. Our society values strength and contraction over flexibility and relaxation, when in reality we need a balance of both.

As an example, learning to "be still" is a far cry from learning to "calm down." The first involves holding muscles in a rigid pattern, and the second involves releasing emotional agitation and the particular muscular contraction patterns associated with that agitation. Both instructions have value individually, but they work much better in harmony.

Relaxation requires a certain amount of mental effort. After eight hours of work, where your muscles are constantly being told, "Be still, hold like that, keep holding ...", they may not know what to do when they are no longer required to "hold there." In fact, they may not even get the message that work is over.

Who even spends a minute after work saying, "Okay, guys, good job, time to go, we're done"? It works — I've had clients on my table use the technique of verbally saying, "Just let it go ..." And they relax.

For others, a little stretching and deep breathing is all that's needed. Imagery — melting like butter, floating on clouds, or sinking into a feather bed — is another useful technique. Just let it go.

It would be so much easier if we started learning about relaxation as children, instead of waiting until we're adults. Isn't it time that relaxation became a bigger part of our culture and your life?

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

Mercy Hospital Conducts Cancer Support Group Meetings On Monday Evenings

Persons with cancer, their families, and friends are invited to attend Mercy Hospital's Cancer Support Group. Meetings are conducted Mondays, 7:00 p.m., in the Deliso Conference Center, and are free of charge.

The group offers information on topics of interest to cancer patients, and provides an oppor-

tunity to share experiences in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Meetings are facilitated by Sr. Madeleine Joy, S.P., of Mercy's Pastoral Care Department.

For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453.

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Arts

WestFest To Feature Various Artists, Etc.

Artists, craftsmen, and photographers from throughout New England will be participating in the WestFest Arts Festival's juried Arts & Crafts Show at Stanley Park.

On May 16th and 17th, approximately 135 exhibitors working in a wide variety of media will transform the park's soccer field into a brightly colored swirl of creative activity.

Western Massachusetts artisans whose wares will be on sale include Daniel Cioch, who returns for his second year with his presentation of shaker furniture. Stained and blown glass by Gerald Kelly of Worthington, Mass. is not to be missed.

Terry Meyer from Granby, Mass., featured in the January 1998 issue of *Country Living* will showcase her pottery made in the Spatterware tradition. Terry Hall from Wyben, Mass. will make her first appearance at WestFest, bringing her fine woven articles. Past favorite artisans returning this year are Lawrence Preston of Hadley, Mass., past WestFest award winner, painter Donna Harkins, and many more!

Artist demonstrations will be featured on both days of the festival: on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Sandra Saitto of Feeding Hills will present a watercolor demonstration. Ms. Saitto has been an award-winning artist at national juried art shows for the past 20 years.

From 3:00-4:00 p.m., artist Don McAulay of Turners Falls, Mass. will present a demonstration of twig furniture construction. Window boxes, an arbor, and trellis will be showcased.

On Sunday, May 17th at 1:00 p.m., Joan Steinmeyer will create concrete garden and container sculpture. Ms. Steinmeyer, a resident of Westfield, is a freelance artist who also works in watercolor, oil, and pastel. From 3:00-4:00 p.m., Paul Leveille, a noted artist and teacher from West Holyoke will demonstrate pastel portraits.

Visitors to WestFest will also find music, juggling singers, and theater on two stages throughout the weekend. Displays of youth art and hands-on activities are available throughout the weekend. Children will be able to construct their own puppets. A food court and picnic area, along with ample free on-site parking, is available.

All activities are handicapped accessible.



AN EXAMPLE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF JEFFREY DUQUETTE, whose work will be on display in Agawam Public Library's gallery during the month of May.

Agawam Public Library To Showcase Work Of Local Photographer Jeffrey Duquette

The Agawam Public Library presents the photographs of local camera bug Jeffrey Duquette in the gallery of the Agawam Public Library for the month of May.

Duquette stated, "I got my first camera when I was about five, and haven't stopped shooting since. In the 1960's, I used to parachute jump with a movie camera on my helmet, and carried a still camera in my pocket. That stopped when a hard landing broke the camera!"

At American International College, Duquette learned darkroom techniques because he was the photographer for the school paper. His work has

appeared in various magazines and newspapers, but he considers himself an amateur.

The pictures on display were culled from literally thousands and they have a common theme. How long will it take you to figure out what it is? Duquette paints from his photos, and while the show is almost all photographs, one painting will be in there, too. He said, "I do this for fun and I hope you'll think these pictures are interesting."

The gallery hours for viewing the work are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Dante Club To Host Buffet & Comedy Night

The Dante Club bocce teams will be presenting a buffet and comedy night, featuring "Mark Rossi and Company," on Friday, May 1st, at the Dante Club (Joe Zecchi Hall), Memorial Avenue, West Springfield.

The buffet will begin at 6:00 p.m., and the show is scheduled to commence at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 per person. For tickets and/or more information, please call the Dante Club at 734-9301.

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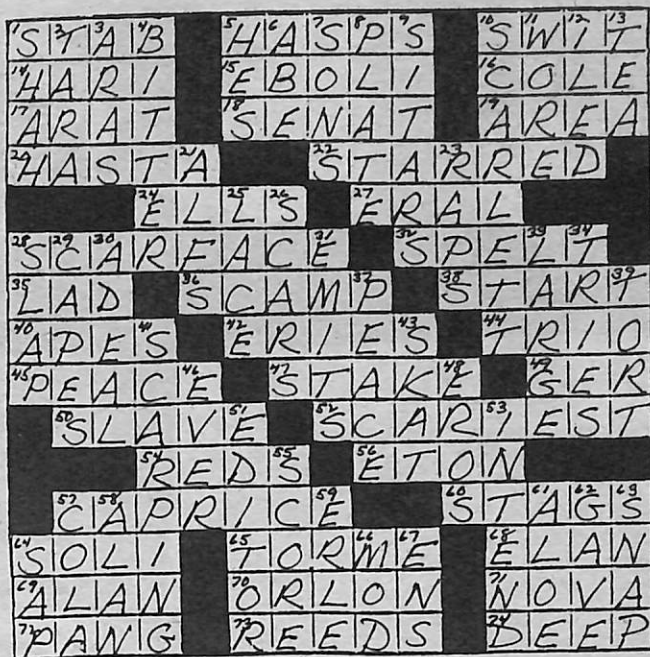
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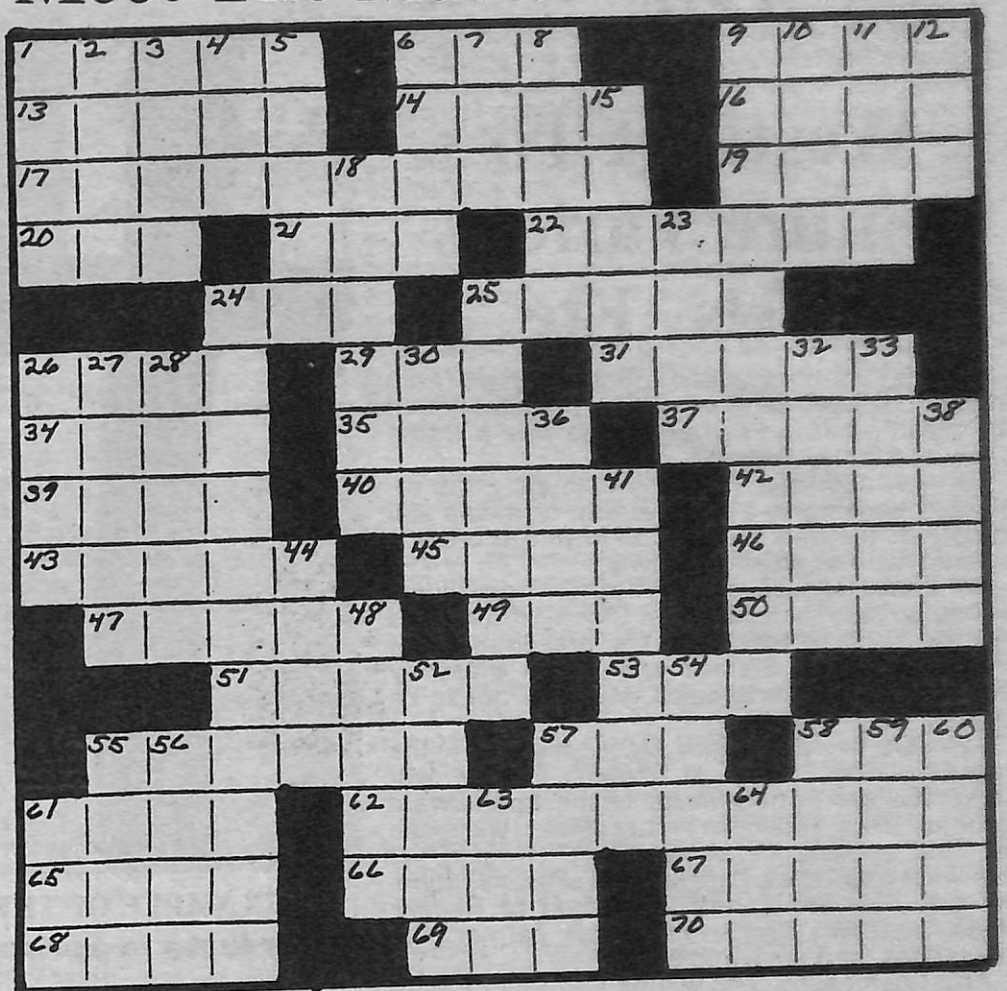
Last Week's Solution...



- 2 Edison's middle name
3 Jump
4 Cure pelts
5 Gaze in a rude way
6 Not alkali
7 U.N. name of yore
8 Antonio's teacher
9 Cockney's abode
10 What an adit leads to
11 Seed covering
12 Danger color
15 Use block letters
18 Bean from Brazil
23 Dope to "The Fonz"
24 Cockney binge curative
25 Acts as an arbiter
26 "— no lady"
27 Main artery
28 Daughter of Lear
30 Laborer of old
32 Jewish religion
33 Sans head sculpture
36 Vend
38 Broadway light
41 Vacation playground
44 Grope
48 Where to get a perm
52 Made docile
54 Watt power source
55 "Jaws" captain
56 "Gone With The Wind" plantation
57 Hebrew lyre
58 Mine entrance
59 Ballesteros of golf
60 God of war
61 "— the cat's meow"
63 Before to a poet
64 In the manner of

Meet The Master

- by Dick Mastroianni...



Evening Preschool Storytime At Agawam Library On May 13th

Agawam and Feeding Hills preschoolers and their parents are invited to attend "Picnic Pals" on Wednesday, May 13th, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Bring your favorite teddy bear or other stuffed toy and enjoy picnic stories, craft, and picnic snacks. Please register by calling 789-1550, or visiting the library (750 Cooper Street) by May 12th.

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PERFORMANCES:

THURSDAY APR 30 - 7:00PM
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SPECIAL PREVIEW TODAY AT NOON: "GLOBE OF DEATH" PERFORMING
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CIRCUS PARADE - 6:00PM CENTURY SHOPPING CENTER TO COLISEUM

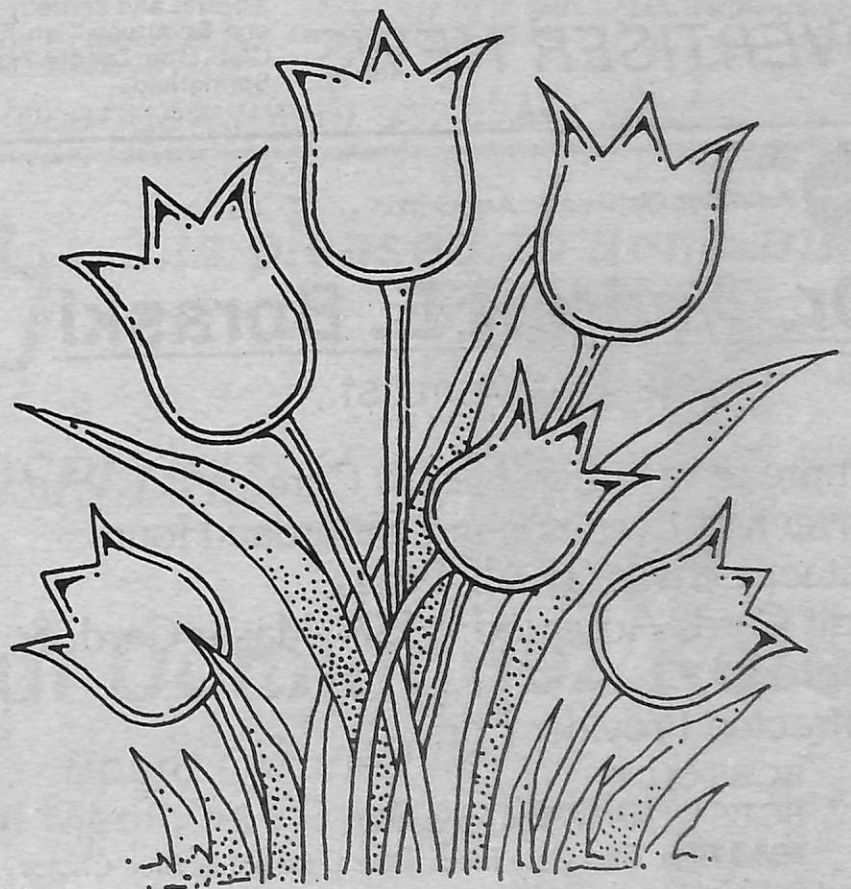
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Ag. Community Artists To Meet On May 7th

Joanne Buoniconti of Longmeadow, a freelance artist, illustrator, muralist, and professional graphic designer, will present the May program for the Agawam Community Artists. Please join us on Thursday evening, May 7th, at 7:00 p.m. at the Captain Leonard House, 633 Main Street, Agawam.

Working in oils with a palette knife and brushes in an abstract, expressionistic style while combining the primitive style of Henri Rousseau, Buoniconti will demonstrate what she refers to as Renaissance Rousseau painting. During the months of May and June, Buoniconti will participate in the Springfield Art League's annual Invitational Exhibit to be held at the Old First Church Gallery in Springfield.

Awarded a grant from the Indian Orchard Citizens' Council for a portable mural design, Buoniconti will be designing a mural with the Indian Orchard Boys and Girls Club, to be housed at the Indian Orchard Policing Task Force Service Office.

She has also exhibited her work at the Springfield Arts Festival, Wilbraham-Monson Academy, Baystate Medical Hospital and Learning Center, STCC Technology Park, and the WGBY/57 Auction.

Under the auspices of the Agawam Cultural Council, meetings and demonstrations of the Agawam Community Artists are free and open to the public.

For additional information regarding the Agawam Community Artists or any of the artists that have been featured in our schedule of monthly programs, please contact Florida Tangocci at 786-3689.

WWII Chorus Has Changed Its Name

The members of the World War II Chorus have chosen a new name, the Agawam Memory Lane Chorus, under which they will continue to meet and perform.

The group is continually open to new members who wish to take part in a group singing experience. Anyone is welcome to attend any of the meetings on a part-time (or whenever you can) basis or become regular members. One-hundred percent attendance is not required for full-time membership and there are no rules about who can sing in any of the upcoming performances, except the individual's "comfort level" in being somewhat familiar with most of the numbers to be performed.

At the present time, most of the music is being sung for our own pleasure on a "sing-along" basis. We are making an attempt to get into some "part-singing," especially for lower voices on some of the songs; but will continue in the sing-along area with people adding whatever extemporaneous harmony, they may be able to find from their own experience.

The main focus of the group will continue to be just singing for pleasure from a large repertoire of popular songs (old and new), and sharing that music from time-to-time with groups that would enjoy this kind of entertainment, as well as putting together a more formal production for the general public a couple of times a year.

Regular practice sessions are held at the Agawam Senior Center on the first and third Tuesday afternoons of each month at 2:30 (following the weekly movie).

Area Residents In "The Fantasticks"...



MOTHER-AND-DAUGHTER TEAMS Marilene & Morgan Allen from Agawam and Margie & Marcy Secora of Southwick rehearse a scene with Steve Sands of Agawam in the musical production "The Fantasticks," to be presented by STAGE III Family Productions at The Red Door Theatre in Feeding Hills, MA, on May 1st, 2nd, 8th, and 9th at 7:30 p.m., and on May 3rd and 10th at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7 (general admission) and \$5 (students and seniors); for reservations, call (413) 789-2026.

Exhibit By American Chestnut Foundation

The Agawam Public Library will have an exhibit by the American Chestnut Foundation in the gallery cases for the month of May.

The American Chestnut Foundation is dedicated to the restoration of the American chestnut tree, once one of the country's most valuable resources.

In the late 1800's, a blight introduced from Asia killed most of the American chestnut trees. Recent developments in genetics and plant pathology are leading to a revival of this magnificent tree.

The exhibit will feature a pictorial history of the American chestnut tree, current research directed toward control of the fungal blight, and American Chestnut Foundation literature and products. Included in the display, will also be sale items, as well as a free raffle of several items, including American chestnut seedlings.

Viewing hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Musician David Polansky To Perform At Agawam Public Library On Friday, May 1st

The Cultural Councils of Agawam and Massachusetts present David Polansky in a First Friday concert at the Agawam Public Library on Friday, May 1st at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Polansky will be performing a fun-filled family-oriented evening with something for everyone. He is an accomplished musician, play-

Last Weekend For "Sound Of Music"

The Westfield Theatre Group, a department of the Westfield Woman's Club, has one final weekend of performances of Rodgers' and Hammerstein's "SOUND OF MUSIC."

The show is directed by Larry Andersen and Kathi Palmer with musical directions by Karen Lampaisi. The show features such wonderful numbers as "Climb Ev'ry Mountain," "Do-re-mi," and "My Favorite Things."

It stars Sue Ingraham and Bill Storozuk as Maria Rainer and Captain von Trapp. Patricia Thomas portrays Mother Abbess and retired Westfield High School band director Tom Gannon is Max Detweiler.

Limited tickets are still available for the final weekend, Friday, May 1st at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 2nd at 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. Reservations may be made by calling the box office at 572-6838, or stopping by the Westfield Woman's Club, 28 Court St., Monday through Thursday, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

ing both piano and trumpet, while encouraging audience participation.

This award-winning entertainer is sure to please the whole family, children to grandparents. Join us for this free concert on Friday, May 1st at the Agawam Public Library.

Best local news...

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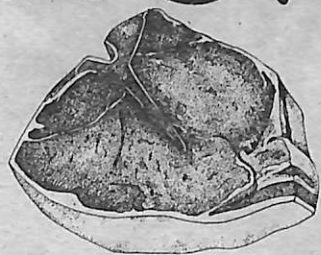
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AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET



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Boneless Shoulder London Broil	\$1.89 Lb.
Boneless Top Blade Steak	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless Chuck Stew Beef	\$1.99 Lb.
Boneless Shoulder Cube Steak	\$2.39 Lb.
Fresh Ground Chuck	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Fresh American Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	\$2.89 Lb.
Fresh American Boneless Center Cut Pork Chops	\$2.99 Lb.
Country Style Pork Ribs	\$1.39 Lb.
Porter House Steak	\$4.99 Lb.
T Bone Steak	\$4.89 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Grade "A" Chicken	
Whole Legs	69¢ Lb.
Thighs	79¢ Lb.
Drumsticks	89¢ Lb.
Whole Boneless Butt Tenderloins (cut to order)	\$4.99 Lb.

SEAFOOD

Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$3.49 Lb.
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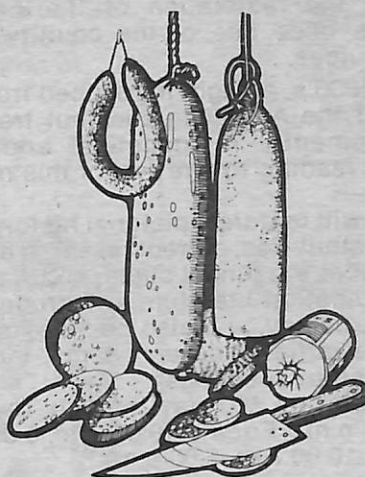
Tuesday & Wednesday SPECIALS

Frozen Hamburg Patties

\$6.99

(5. Lb. Box)

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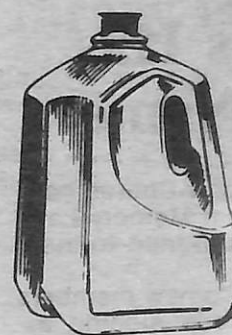


Land O'Lakes White American Cheese	\$2.99 Lb.
Russer German Bologna	\$1.29 Lb.
Hormel Genoa Salami	\$2.99 Lb.
Thumann's Gourmet Turkey Breast	\$4.99 Lb.
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Buy 1, Get 1 FREE



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Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.19
Friendly Ice Cream (All Varieties - 1/2 Gal.) 2 For	\$5.00
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A Crain Communications Inc. publication

December 1997 Edition

3rd Annual Top 200 Franchises



1. General Nutrition Centers (GNC)
2. Coldwell Banker
3. Holiday Inn
4. Management Recruiters
5. International House of Pancakes
6. Carlson Wagonlit Travel Associates
7. Travelodge
8. Mail Boxes Etc.
9. McDonald's
10. Midas



Name	Top 200 Rank
1. Coldwell Banker	2
2. Better Homes & Gardens	22
3. Century 21	31
4. RE/MAX	47
5. Housemaster of America	100
6. ERA	106
7. Prudential Real Estate Affiliates	126
8. Realty Executives	145
9. Homes & Land Publishing	171

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Education

“Pals Program” Visits Elementary Schools

Agawam elementary students in kindergarten and second grade participated in the “Pals Program” sponsored by the Shriners Hospital for Children. The purpose of this program is to acquaint young children with the various aspects of being a person with a handicap.

Shirley Massoli and Bernadette White entertained the students with their four Pals dolls who used walkers, wheelchairs, braces, and prostheses. The children were told a story about each doll to heighten awareness of the feelings and abilities of children who are challenged.

The hit of the program occurred when the students were able to use a wheelchair, walk with walkers, and have their fingers casted.

A special thank you to Shriners for providing this informational and fun program free of charge.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, May 4th: Steamed frankfort in roll, seasoned green beans, oven potato puffs with catsup, chilled peaches, milk.

Tuesday, May 5th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, seasoned diced carrots, whipped potatoes, bread and butter, peanut butter cookie, milk.

Wednesday, May 6th: Hamburg in roll with cheese fingers, steamed parsley rice, seasoned mixed vegetables, fresh Mac apple or orange jello with topping, milk.

Thursday, May 7th: Roast turkey with gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned niblet corn, wheat bread and butter, chilled fruit cup or chocolate cake with vanilla icing, milk.

Friday, May 8th: Grilled cheese sandwich, pickle chips, oven potato puffs with catsup, chilled fruit cup or chocolate pudding with topping, milk.

Annual Spelling Bee For Agawam Students On Friday, May 1st

The public is invited to attend a townwide Spelling Bee on Friday, May 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Agawam Middle School. The contestants have been chosen from the four elementary schools and the Middle School.

Mr. Paul Sutton will be this year's pronouncer and the judges are as follows: Mrs. Linda Galarneau, member of the Agawam School Committee, Ms. Wendy McAnanama, librarian, and Ms. Jeanne Hofmann, Children's Librarian.

Awards will be presented to all participants and prizes will be given to first- and second-place winners at each grade level.

The Spelling Bee is being sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

ADVERTISER NEWS



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PARTICIPATING IN THE “PALS PROGRAM” that visited Clark Elementary School: Ericka Lynch, Nicholas, Gould, Bernadette White, Heidi Duclos, Beth Malone, Andrea Gamache, and Jonathan Ross. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



“TAB” DONATIONS from James Clark School to the Shriners Hospital for Children (which sponsors the “Pals Program”): Luran Siedal, Joshua Blood, Bernadette White, Danielle Fife, Ghadi Tayah, Nicholas Sliech, and Kelsi Johnson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



Celebration

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of

Dedicated Teaching in Agawam
Thursday, May 7, 1998

5:30 Social Hour 6:30 Dinner

at

Chez Josef

For tickets, call Barbara Connery
786-2671



Guidance Column...

by Paul C. Cavallo
Deputy Principal

College Acceptances: Congratulations!

Jessica Francis: Suffolk University
Matthew Norris: Emerson College
Terri Zarr: Springfield Technical Community College
Brian Butler: Springfield Technical Community College
Dan Hendrix: University of Miami, Berklee College of Music, The New England Conservatory of Music
Nick Montessi: Springfield Technical Community College
Stephanie O'Brien: Holyoke Community College
Lindy Gage: Hobart-William Smith College
Scholarships: See your counselor for more information or an application.
Eastern States Exposition Scholarship: Open to Western Massachusetts residents who have been involved with activities at the Eastern States Exposition. **Deadline:** July 1, 1998.

Sixth Grade Trip Is A Success

The sixth grade trip to New York City, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia was a success.

The travelers' first stop was the Statue of Liberty followed by a visit to Ellis Island. The five-day trip also allowed them to experience the Liberty Science Center, the National Zoo, Smithsonian Museums, as well as the Jefferson, Lincoln, and Vietnam Memorials.

It was an honor to be able to tour the inside of the White House. When visiting our Capitol, Congressman Richard Neal spoke to the group.

Arlington Cemetery made its respectful impression. In Philadelphia, the group was given an historic tour where the Liberty Bell was on display.

The meals and recreation events were fun. The chaperones did an excellent job overseeing the children. It was a worthwhile trip; very educational and memorable.

"I'd like to thank the coordinators and the leaders involved in the planning and safety of this excursion," said Laura Heiden. "I'd like to thank the sixth-grade children for their good behavior. Also, thanks to the friends, family, co-workers, and community for purchasing candy to help fund this wonderful opportunity. Good luck to next year's sixth-grade travelers," she said.

For the best in local goods and services, be sure to check the classified



GIRL SCOUTS

THE GIRL SCOUTS

AS GREAT AS YOU WANT TO MAKE IT

Brownie Troop 543 from Phelps School has been very busy these last few months.

In January, we made Valentine cards for the Soldiers' Home and kicked off our first-ever cookie sale. In February, we were joined by Troop 568 and we went to Camp Bonnie Brae for a two-

night, three-day campout in Big House, of course. We made some great pizza for supper one night and the girls made the leaders ham and eggs one morning for breakfast.

We did some hiking in the snow and had a great time skating with our boots on Big Pond. We took a night hike one evening and did a little exploring with our flashlights. When we came back, the girls were ready to make their own sundaes, which was the best thing of the whole trip. We completed two try-its on our adventure - "Caring & Sharing" and "Play."

March found us selling cookies at Geisler's Supermarket on a cold, snowy Saturday. We had a great time, though, and sold all of our cookies.

April found us preparing for our first annual Father/Daughter Potluck Supper. We are working on "Art to Wear" and we're planning a fashion show for the fathers to show off our hard work and "funky" clothes.

Girl Scout Fashion Show On Fri., May 1st

Unfortunately, Old Navy is not able to sponsor the Cadette Girl Scout Troop 556 Fashion Show scheduled for Friday, May 1st.

But, "the show must go on!" The troop would love to have your support on this evening as it puts on its Silver Award Fashion Show.

Entrance fee is 50 cents and a good quality,

second-hand summer outfit. All profits will be used to purchase an item from the Battered Women Shelter's wish list. The clothes will also be donated.

Don't forget, Friday, May 1st at the Agawam Congregational Church from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



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June 4
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Clean Air Classic

GOLF TOURNAMENT

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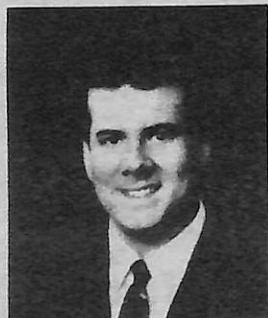
The New

Riverside Grove

at 6:00 p.m.

Includes:

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TV 22 News Sports Director

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REGISTRATION - 10:00 a.m. SCRAMBLE/SHOTGUN - 11:30 a.m.

LUNCH - will be served during play.

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GOLF • CART • LUNCH • DINNER • PRIZES
ENTRANCE TO RIVERSIDE PARK

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- **TEE or GREEN SPONSOR** - \$100.00 includes attractive company sign and listing in the program book.
- **SILVER SPONSOR** - \$250.00 2 Players & a Tee or Green sponsor and listing in the program book.
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HOLE IN ONE PRIZE ON EACH PAR 3
INCLUDING - AUTOMOBILE ON 9TH HOLE

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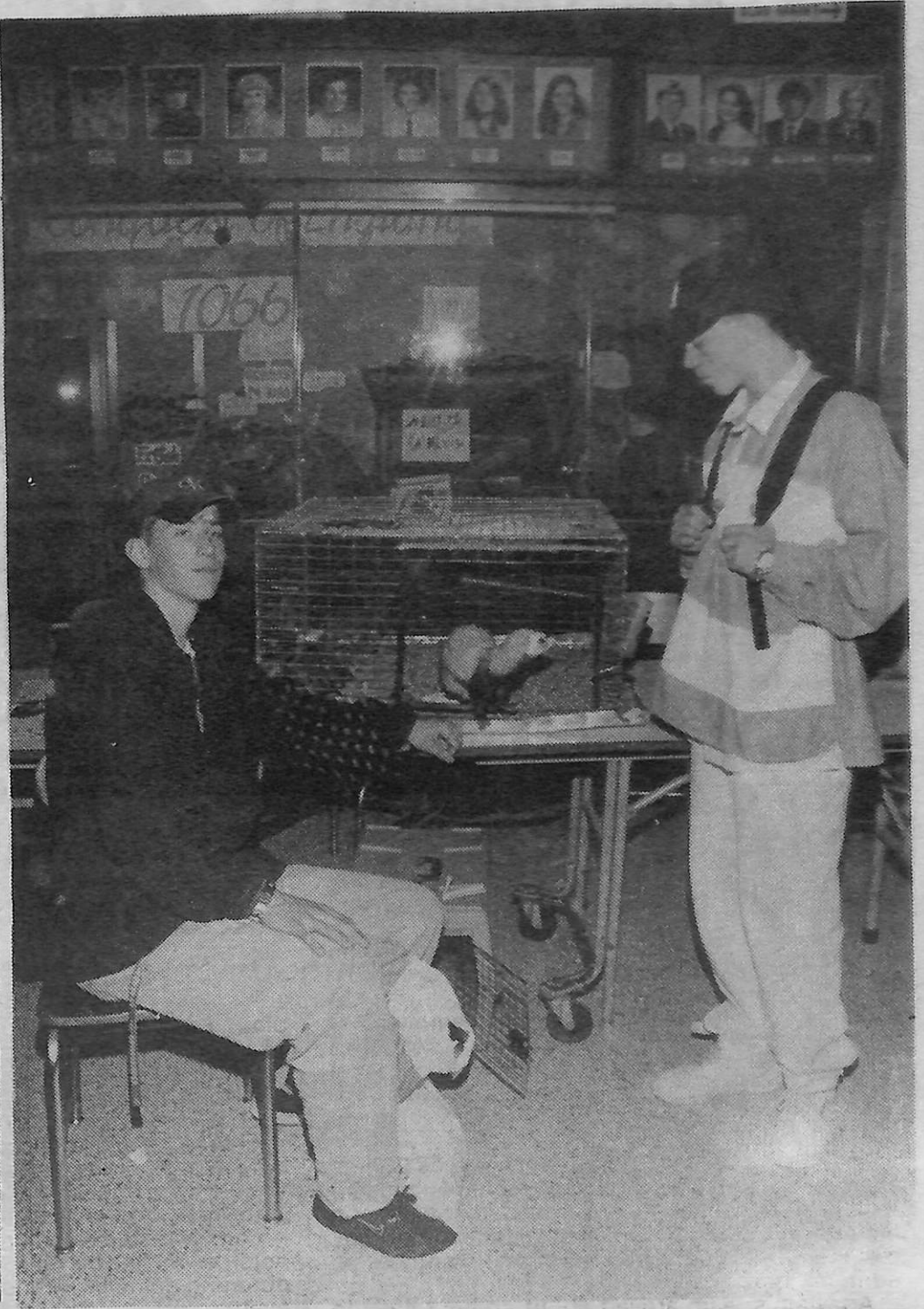
Lincoln Mercury, Chrysler Plymouth, Subaru, Dodge & Suzuki, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile, Pontiac

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All proceeds will be used by the American Lung Association to provide Asthma Education Programs.

“Earth Day” Commemorated At Agawam High...



ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH, Agawam High School got a head start on this year's "Earth Day" celebration. IN LEFT PHOTO: Dan Smola with a display on environmental technology. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Jason Mackay and Jim Stellato were getting "cagey" with a ferret. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

For copies of his photos in this edition, call AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053...

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Space Limited
Deadline: May 4, 1998

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To Reserve Space Call:
Mary Ellen At 789-9844

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At Twice-Yearly Giveaway...

AHS Teachers Haul Away Surplus High-Tech Equipment

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Take elements from a tag sale, an auction, and the 19th century land rush. Throw in public school teachers on a bargain hunt and corporate outreach volunteers from a corporate giant looking to help out area school systems. Add to the mix a regional industrial supply house, and you have some idea of what goes on twice a year when Hamilton Standard, a division of United Technologies (UTC), hosts Oklahoma Day in a parking lot at the Windsor Locks plant.

Throughout the year, surplus equipment and supplies are collected from all departments of the company, set aside in tractor trailers, and eventually spread out in the parking lot in what looks like a giant tag sale on a Saturday morning each spring and fall for the last eight years.

In addition to the furniture, equipment, and supplies that are no longer of use to the aerospace manufacturing company, new industrial equipment is donated to the event by Granger Industrial Supply.

Area school systems are invited to send a team of teachers to haul away whatever can be used by their school districts. Over the years, the teachers have developed a number of strategies to identify and lay first claim to the materials most needed by their schools.

Like their colleagues, Agawam's team begins its preparations early — and thoughtfully. Besides getting the town to send along a panel truck to bring home the loot, each team member drives down in their own truck or van, sometimes pulling a trailer behind. They never know what they'll find on display, but it would be a shame to have to leave something behind just for lack of transportation.

Tech Ed Academic Coordinator Thomas Collins explained that the team always includes himself, tech liaison teacher John Burns, and at least one member of the Science Department so that they can identify and scoop up the most urgently needed items first.

Agawam's team arrived about an hour early to scope out the field and to assign group members specific targets (once the signal is given to open the field in a good-natured free-for-all, reminiscent of the settlers staking their claims during the Oklahoma land rush).

"I always have a 'laundry list' of things the teachers want and it always includes things they won't get from our budget, like chairs, furniture, and filing cabinets," Collins said, pointing to a trailer truckload of those items being unloaded as four forklifts shuttled the contents of the trucks to the display area.

"It's unbelievable the amount of equipment we have gotten since they began inviting us," Collins said. "An engineer who lives in town and works for Hamilton got us on the list and we've been coming ever since. They've been very good to us."

A manufacturing engineer at the Windsor Locks

Boy Scouts Raise Funds Via Car Wash...



ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH, at Agawam Congregational Church, Boy Scout Troop 82 was "in a lather" as its members conducted a car wash to raise money for the Troop's activities. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

plant, Feeding Hills resident Richard Lanier is one of the 14 volunteers comprising the company's education outreach team and it was through his efforts that Agawam was invited to join the 32 school systems who participate in Oklahoma Day.

"We rely on the school systems in the surrounding communities to train the workers we need, so it's only right that we establish partnerships with the schools," Lanier said.

Lanier credited Granger Industrial Supply for helping make the giveaway possible and for donating some of the most desirable items to the event.

"Granger is one of our suppliers and they have a huge regional warehouse in Hartford. They're willing to give us discontinued items, items that have been returned, and some items with slight scratches or dents rather than deal with returning the merchandise to the manufacturers," Lanier said.

The valuable new equipment donated by Granger is displayed under a tent and each school is given a number, by lottery, so that they will have an equal chance to claim a prized item, like a new water heater. Before the controlled pandemonium of the "land rush," each school system is called by number to the Granger tent where they can select one item in a rotation that continues until the tent is emptied, Lanier explained.

In the two rounds of the lottery, Agawam picked up eight soldering work stations (worth \$100 each)

for the High School electronics program and a gas unit heater.

"I'm sure Maintenance Director Tony Albro will have a use for the furnace," said Collins.

A Ready-Set-Go Atmosphere...

During the final moments of the lottery for the new equipment, a ready-set-go atmosphere grew as teachers from around the region got their hand-carts pointed in the direction of their targeted items. Once given permission, the crowd dispersed in all directions, sweeping the parking lot clean of usable items — down to the registration table and chairs used by Hamilton personnel — in less than an hour.

Recently appointed as the Director of Hamilton Standards's Education Outreach Team, Laurene McGarry pronounced her first experience with Oklahoma Day "wonderful."

"We've been here since 5:00 a.m. and it's been fun to watch my team put this together. They all know their own responsibilities so well, the project almost runs by itself," Ms. McGarry said. "Hamilton is doing great things by giving supplies to area schools that might not be able to afford them otherwise."

Ms. McGarry said the company is looking at tightening up the boundaries for its educational outreach programs in order to focus its efforts

SEE HAMILTON - Page 38...

Family Dentistry

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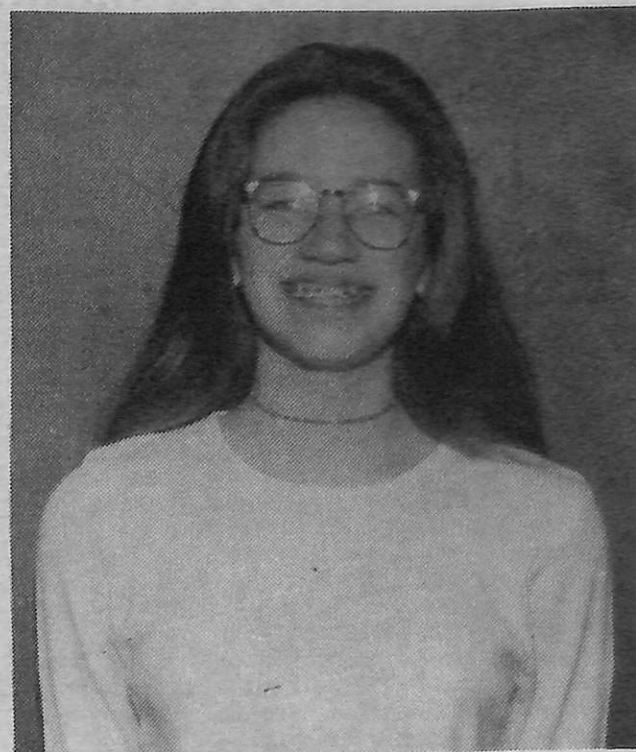
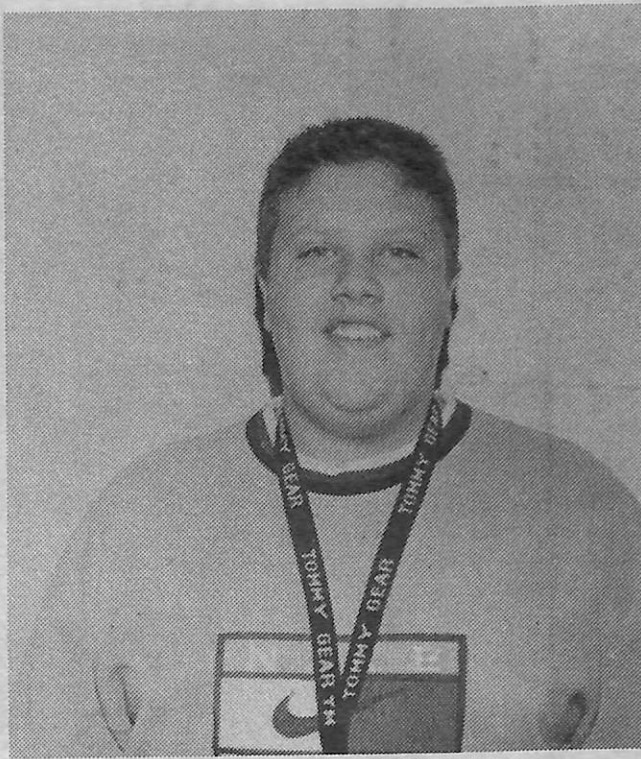
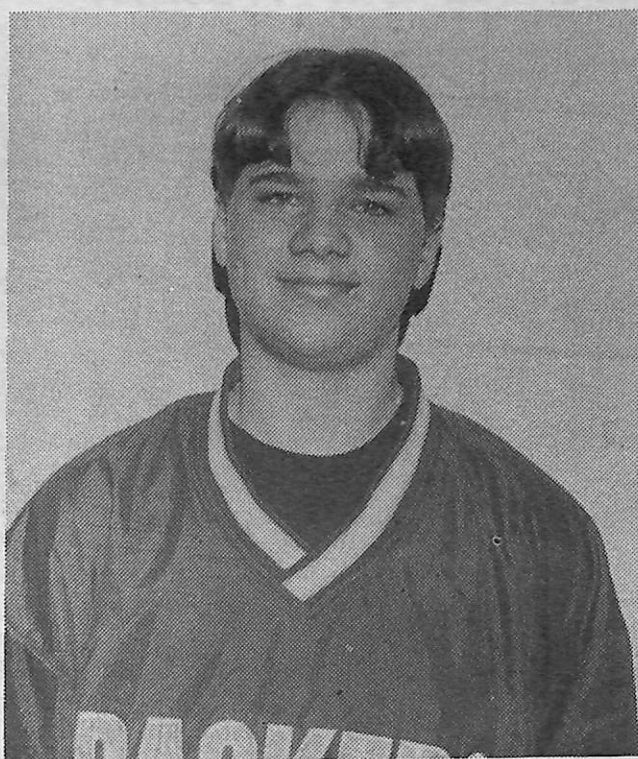
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“Phys. Ed. Students” At Agawam Junior High...



“PHYSICAL EDUCATION Students of the Month” at Agawam Junior High School (from left to right): eighth-grader Jay Yarymowicz, seventh-grader Frank Bono, eighth-grader Erika Martin, and seventh-grader Ashley Robidoux (bottom right). Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

HAMILTON - from Page 37...

close to where they're located and in the communities where its employees live. But, Oklahoma Day will continued unabated for the area schools already being served by the program.

Hamilton Maintenance Manager Art Bergeron, who has been involved in about 30 Oklahoma Days over the years as the giveaway evolved to its present form, estimated the company has given away equipment that would have cost the schools well over \$10 million if purchased new.

Among the treasures loaded on the trailer Burns always brings to Oklahoma Day: two dozen computer chairs, a computer corner desk, hot plates for the high school chemistry lab, a digital multimeter for measuring electricity, and an assortment of “junk” that will become hands-on teaching tools for the kids in Burns' technology program at the Junior High.

“Where else can I get the kind of equipment so that I can let the kids learn by taking things apart,” Burns said. “And some of this is worth having just for parts, like the powerful magnets that the kids will use for all sorts of projects.”

Burns said it was impossible to estimate the value of his “finds,” but the chairs alone would cost the School Department at least \$2,500 to purchase new.

Among the last to leave, Burns and his son, Tim, a chemistry teacher at Cathedral High School, combed through the remnants of electronics gear at the bottom of the crates to make sure nothing was left behind as long as there was room in his truck.

“You have to stay until the end, otherwise we wouldn't have found these digital multimeters. They were at the bottom of a crate of electronics, and no one else knew what was in there,” Burns said.

Rounding out Agawam's team, science teacher Robert Janik brought his son and a friend along to help load up the trucks.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

Eleanor Washburn Cobleigh Attends Bay Path Conference

Eleanor Washburn Cobleigh of Porter Drive, Agawam was one of a select group of 28 alumnae invited to attend the Second Annual Conference at Bay Path College in Longmeadow.

Participants were invited to stay on the Bay Path campus from Thursday, April 16th to Sunday, April 19th. While on campus they attended classes, participated in round-table discussions, and attended student and faculty panels and presentations. In addition, they met with the president of Bay Path College, Dr. Carol A. Leary.

The summit alumnae also attended Bay Path's third annual women's professional development conference on April 17th. The sold-out program, “Pathways for Leadership,” featured many prominent women. Keynote speakers included Olympic gold medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey, consumer trends expert and author Faith Popcorn, cosmetics company executive, and philanthropist Evelyn Lauder, and the first woman Federal Aviation Administration administrator, Jane Garvey.

Cobleigh is a member of the Class of 1948 at Bay Path, a private four-year women's college that emphasizes leadership, communication, and technology.



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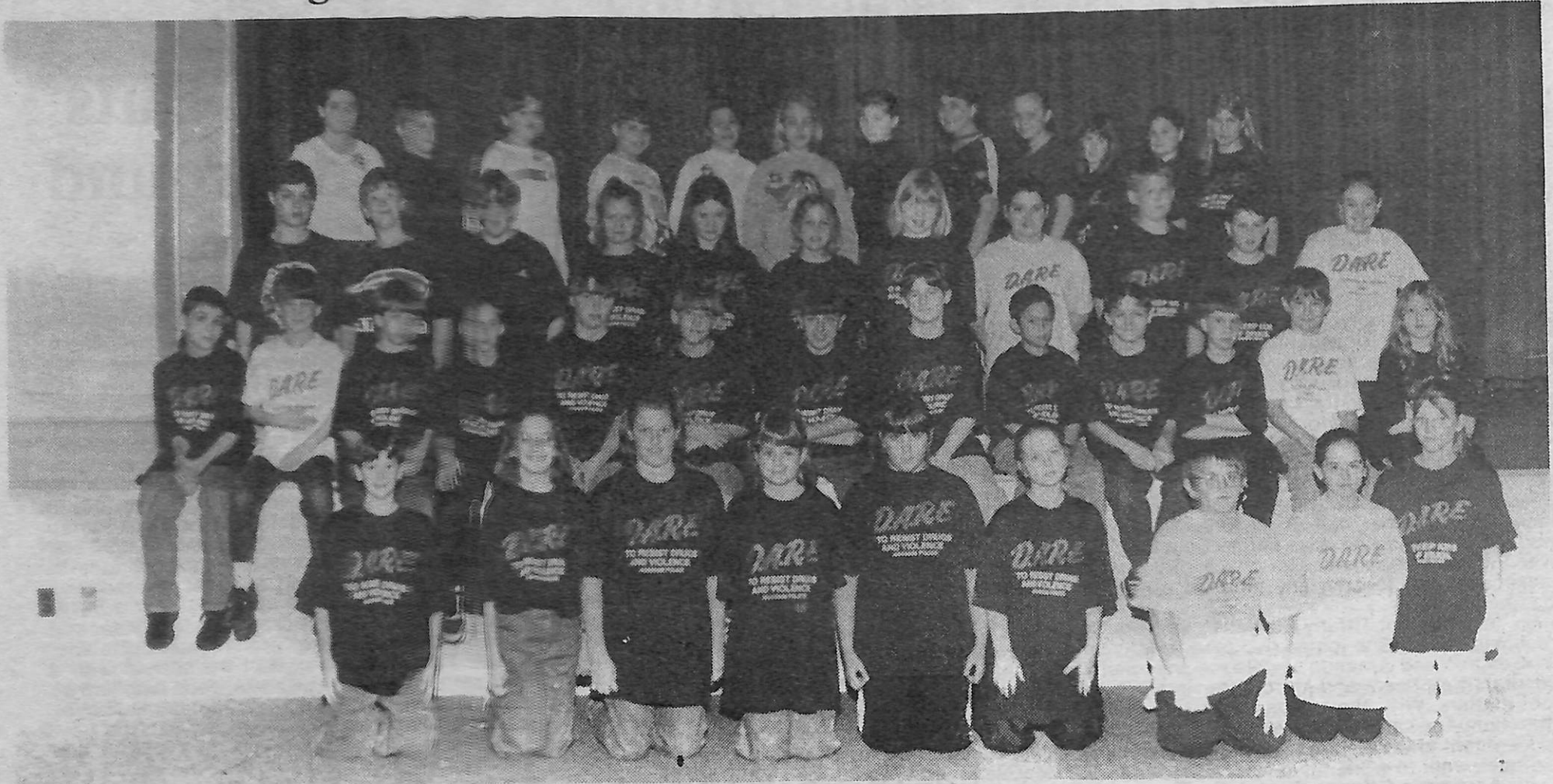
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Congratulations To The D.A.R.E. "Graduates"...



AGAWAM MIDDLE SCHOOL recently held its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony for the 1997-1998 school year. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

May 7th Recognition Dinner For Teachers And Administrators With 25 Years (Or More) Of Service

The City of Agawam has 112 teachers and administrators who have 25 years or more of dedicated service to the schoolchildren of Agawam.

The Agawam Education Association is holding a dinner at Chez Josef on Thursday, May 7th to recognize and honor these teachers and administrators.

Mary Ginley, Massachusetts Teacher of the Year, will be our featured speaker. Our celebration begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour and dinner begins at 6:30.

Anyone interested in joining in this celebration should contact Barbara Connery at 786-2671. Tickets are \$25.

Best local news - AAN!!!

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Sports

Holyoke Becomes Another Easy Prey For AHS Softball

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Last Thursday, the Agawam High girls' softball team beat up on Holyoke, 15-3 at Harmon Smith Field. It was the Brownies' seventh win of the season against no losses. It was another impressive exhibition for Coach Debbie Lickley's troops, who were working their third game in four days (because of prior problems with the weather).

Agawam was a little thin in the pitching department for the Holyoke game. Junior Lindsay Mason was out with a bad back. Junior Ali Jakobek, the other half of the Brownie mound staff, had pitched two days before, in a 20-2 win over East Longmeadow. The coach didn't want Jakobek's arm to take any more of a beating than necessary.

So, they brought Tiffany Blackman up from the freshman squad. She joined two other freshmen, Jill Gendron and Amanda Merola, on the varsity. Gendron (first base) and Merola (centerfield) are spot starters. With the kid on the hill, the usual drum tight Agawam defense (0 errors) behind her, and a potent offense (14 hits) for run support, the Brownies went to work.

Agawam's Offense Wastes No Time

The Purple Knights went down 1-2-3 in the first. Agawam's offense wasted no time in its half of the inning. Kristen Patterson reached on an error, went to second, and stole third. Amy Mastroianni reached on a fielder's choice, driving Patterson home to make it 1-0, Agawam. Amber Conte reached on a force, with Mastroianni getting bagged at second. Catcher Dianna DiStefano contributed an infield hit, sending Conte home from second. After Gendron lined to left, Jess Montagna singled home DiStefano. The inning ended with Agawam up, 3-0.

Holyoke managed to get one back in the second on a single, a sacrifice fly, a steal of third, and a passed ball. Agawam topped that in its at-bat. After Kornelia Moysis was called out at second trying to stretch a single into a double, and Patterson bounced back to the pitcher for the second out of the inning, the Brownies went to work.

Mastroianni, who would have four singles in the game, singled. Conte also got aboard with a single, sending Mastroianni home. Another single, this time by DiStefano, scored Conte. Gendron laced the first of two triples she would have on the day to left, driving in DiStefano, giving the Brownies a 6-1 lead after two.

The third saw the Knights continue to be frustrated by Blackman. They sent four hitters against the freshman and saw one walk while the others could manage only weak air balls (which found Brownie gloves waiting for them when they fell back to earth).

Agawam would put the hammer down in its half of the inning. With one out, Merola bunted, the Knight pitcher threw it away, and the feisty freshman sprinted all the way to third base. Moysis walked.

Patterson hit into a force, erasing Moysis on a 6-4 force to send Merola home. Patterson then promptly stole second. Mastroianni would get another single, driving in Patterson. (Mastroianni would have four BI's in this one.) Conte also singled.

Lickley then called for a double steal. With two down, Mastroianni and Conte would end up on third and second, respectively. Another Purple Knight miscue saw another run come home when DiStefano reached on a butchered ball to short, scoring Mastroianni. Gendron drilled her second triple to left-center, driving in Conte and DiStefano. After three, Agawam enjoyed an 11-1 lead.

Blackman, cruising like a veteran senior, set the side down in order to open the fourth. Agawam got another in the bottom of that inning. Junior Eric Rescigno (in for Moysis at second) singled, stole second, and went to third on a Patterson fly out to deep centerfield. Mastroianni singled again, sending Rescigno dancing across the dish. The only thing left was a song by the Fat Lady - Agawam now led, 12-1.

Holyoke got one back in the fifth on a run-scoring double. There were two on with one out when Blackman got out of a semi-jam via a strikeout and a grounder to second. Agawam, for the first time in the game, failed to score.

12-2 Going Into The Sixth

It was 12-2 going into the sixth. The Purple Knights couldn't hang anything on the

SEE SOFTBALL - Page 41...

Wealth Of Young Talent Puts AHS Softball On Solid Ground

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High girls' softball is on a roll, and I'm not talking just about the varsity. Across the board, or the playing fields, as it were, success is everywhere. The varsity, at this writing, stands at 8-0. The junior varsity is also 8-0. The freshmen are 4-0. That 20-0 overall record is pretty impressive. And they are not doing it with mirrors, either.

Last week, the varsity, because of weather problems, played four games in five days. They won all four: 20-2 versus East Longmeadow, 9-3 versus Cathedral, 15-3 against Holyoke, and 7-3 over Ludlow on Friday morning. They did it despite the absence, due to injury, of two key players — senior centerfielder Stephanie Fleming (ACL) and pitcher Lindsay Mason (back). "It was a little difficult playing that many games in such a short time. But the kids are young. The whole thing might have been toughest on me," varsity Coach Debbie Lickley said.

They did so well, in part, because of the contributions of three freshmen — Amanda Merola, Jill Gendron, and pitcher Tiffany Blackman. Merola is subbing for the injured Fleming at the key centerfield position. Gendron is playing first base and doing a good job there.

"There are many quality kids on the freshman team. They're athletic and well-coached and they've made contributions on the varsity," Lickley noted. A big contribution was made by Blackman in the Holyoke win. She was up to take some pressure off the team's other frontline hurler, junior Ali Jakobek. "I knew Tiffany was nervous. I just told her not to be afraid. I told Tiffany the team behind her was the best around," Lickley said.

The coach also admitted that every game and

every win is a big confidence builder for them. "Oh sure, we're winning despite the injuries to key people. A team does that because they stay focused and people step up to take up the slack. It's a mark of a good club," Lickley observed. A lot of the success so far has to do with seniors Kristen Patterson, Dianna DiStefano, Amber Conte, and Amy Mastroianni. Conte, a first time All-Western Mass. pick in 1997, has been flawless in the field at third and tenacious at the plate. Patterson, the Division I player of the year in 1997 and despite being in a batting slump, continues to play stellar shortstop and, as usual, is a terror on the basepaths.

Mastroianni is always a capable leftfielder and is enjoying a career year at the plate. DiStefano, herself injured at the start of the season with a shoulder problem, does what all good catchers do — run the defense and make an occasional house call to the circle to settle down her pitcher.

Mason has thrown this week. It is still unsure when she'll return to action. Until the situation is resolved, Blackman will stay with the varsity staff. Fleming says she'll be ready to go soon. While they might be ready to play, another injury came up to haunt the Brownies in the Ludlow game. Patterson hurt her right thumb on a steal of second. "It's bad. We don't know how it will impact her yet," Lickley said.

The JV's are a story in themselves (coached by Lynda Kunasek).

She was not sure just what she would have when the season began. "They have surprised me.

SEE SOLID GROUND - Page 41...

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SOLID GROUND - from Page 40...

This group is the epitome of teamwork. We have no stars on this team, just open-minded, good kids.

"In this program, players are always on the move between the varsity, junior varsity, and freshman teams. We get the kids going up and going down. We see injuries on the varsity that must be dealt with by moving players. We see kids with varsity experience come to us. This team is supportive," Kunasek said.

The coach explained why the chemistry works: "Our captains, Jen Lyman, Alison Pisano, and Jennifer Burke make sure the kids are immediately accepted when they come to us. I've never coached a team where that has been the order of the day."

Kunasek stressed that the kids can readily adjust to each other. "There are no egos here. I believe in my players, wherever they might come from. I think they believe in me."

The freshmen are strong. Their long-time coach, Al O'Quinn, realized that from the first day of practice. "This team is a powerhouse," he said, a big smile on his face. They beat Ludlow last Friday, 19-1. Their four wins have seen 99 runs scored and only five against.

The freshmen, because of their talent, have been utilized heavily by the varsity and JV's. O'Quinn knows that is a fact of softball life. "We started out with 11 kids. We now have 10. We have played with a total team effort."

His team is so talented that he cross trains everyone. They have two competent shortstops, three kids who can catch, two who can play second, two first basemen, two third basemen, two pitchers beyond Blackman, and six kids who can play every outfield position.

"These kids are so good. I can mix and match them and change my lineup. They are athletes," O'Quinn said.

These kids come from the Sacred Heart Athletic Association League, where they are taught all the skills. The desire to succeed, which is perched in the wheelhouse, is nurtured there. O'Quinn is so sure of his athletes that he is going to train them to be slaphitters.

"Left-handers do that. We don't have a lefty-hitter on this team. We are going to turn them around this week and see how they do. It will be an experiment that will help the varsity. Coach Lickley needs a hitter with that skill up with her," he noted.

The bottom line is this — Agawam softball is set for the next two or three seasons at least.

AHS SOFTBALL - from Page 40....

scoreboard. The Brownies could and did. Rescigno, displaying a good eye, drew a walk. Patterson, struggling a bit at the plate these days, hit into her second force of the game. Rescigno's retirement at second left the bag vacant. Patterson, who can beat you in many ways and not necessarily just with the bat, stole it.

Mastrianni got her fourth RBI of the game with a single to up the middle, sending Patterson home. DiStefano, showing some power, belted a ball to center that was a triple all the way. But the senior catcher, showing good speed, stretched it into a two-run homer. The sixth ended with Agawam up 15-2.

The Knights had a homerun of their own to start the seventh. Then a single and two walks loaded the bases with two outs. The game ended on a hard shot towards short. It hit the Holyoke runner heading for third for the final out.

It was Blackman's first varsity win in what looks to be starting out as a promising career. Holyoke fell to 1-5.

BROWNIE STATS: Patterson, 0-5, 1 rbi, 3 rs, 3 sb; Mastrianni, 4-5, 4 rbi, 1 rs, 2 sb; Conte, 2-5, 1 rbi, 4 rs, 1 sb; DiStefano, 3-5 (HR), 5 rbi, 5 rs; Gendron, 2-3 (two triples), 3 rbi; Montagna, 1-4, 1 rbi; Galluzzo, 1-3; Merola, 0-4, 1 rs; Moysis, 1-1; Rescigno, 1-1, 1rs.

PITCHING: Blackman - 7 IP; 6 H; 3 R; 2 ER; 4 BB; 4 SO; 2.00 ERA.

HITTING: Agawam - AB, 35; HITS, 14, .400; LEFT ON BASE - 9. Holyoke - AB, 26; HITS, 6, .230; LEFT ON BASE - 5.

Parks & Rec. Dept. Taking Applications For Swimming Coaches

The Agawam Parks & Recreation Department is now accepting applications for the positions of swim team coach and assistant swim team coach.

Applicants must be 16 years of age to be eligible for employment. For more information, call the Agawam Recreation Department at 821-0514.

The Town of Agawam is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer and is strongly and actively committed to diversity within its community.

Brownie Girls' Tennis Defeat South Hadley, Bow To Ludlow

The Agawam High School girls' tennis team came away with a 4-1 victory against South Hadley on Tuesday, April 21st.

First singles saw **Maureen Dimock** of AHS and **Krysten Brezinsky** of South Hadley exchange ground strokes through a tense tie-breaker and a "hold your breath" second set. Maureen returned almost every ball hit at her, remained patient, and held on to win a tightly contested match. "The games went back and forth, in and out of deuce, and were fun to watch," said Coach Mary Wolochowicz.

Courtney Locke fell to Alison Morse in the second singles spot. "Courtney is the greatest sport and team player. All season practicing doubles and with Kaitlin on vacation, Courtney was thrown into second singles and did herself proud," said the coach. "She exchanged ground strokes with Alison, but the singles player won."

In a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory at third singles, **Janice Balicki** "seems to be our marathon matcher," according to Wolochowicz. "Playing the backboard, Janice gets almost every ball back. Although a senior," she said, "this is Janice's first year with the team and strategy will come; terrific perseverance."

Moving up to first doubles from second, **Seema Gada** and **Andrea Cizek** had their hands full. After winning the first set, they had a letdown and quickly lost the second set. "After regaining their composure and getting back on track, the third set became a nail biter," said the coach, with the Brownies winning over Brooke Popielare and Missy St. Andrew.

Wendy Gonzales lost her second doubles partner to singles and had to work together with a new partner this week, another senior, **Michele Clauson**. "Michele and Wendy had one practice to get to know each other," said Wolochowicz, and apparently the union worked fine. There is still a lot to learn," she said, "when you switch partners, but they hung on to get their, and the team's, first win, 6-2, 6-4," commented the coach.

The Brownies fell to Ludlow in a Wednesday, April 22nd match vs. Ludlow, 1-4.

In the only win for the team, **Maureen Dimock** and **Devyn Blais** exchanged ground strokes and it again appeared as if Maureen was playing against herself. "Both players were consistent, but this day, again Maureen was more patient and thought through her placement of shots," commented the coach.

In second singles, **Courtney Locke** went against another good singles player and just fell short. "Her movement was good, but she could not keep up with Jennifer," said Wolochowicz. "We will, hopefully, be at full strength when we play our next matches," she said.

Third singles saw **Janice Balicki** play an outstanding match of long rallies and points against Ludlow's **Melissa Santos**. "Neither girl gave up, even through the last set," said the coach. "After a two-and-a-half hour match, Melissa finished as the winner, but both girls should be proud of their determination and guts," according to Wolochowicz.

"Andrea and Seema had their hands full," said Wolochowicz of **Seema Gada** and **Andrea Cizek** at first singles. "Andrea and Seema had their hands full with harder shots and serves being hit at them than they were used to," she said. "Ludlow also controlled the net on many points."

"Again, the stronger Ludlow team made it hard for Wendy and Michele to get on-track," said the coach about the second singles team of **Wendy Gonzales** and **Michele Clauson**. "The girls were not able to return some of the harder shots that were hit at them," she said. "Michele was able to get some excellent lob returns in and Wendy had many fine serves," commented the coach.

"All of the kids played well this week, and we look forward to league play next week," she said. "Playing the teams in the league above us has been a good learning experience and we hope to continue to improve our play."

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Brownies Pound South Hadley In Baseball With Big Sticks

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

They say if you've got it, flaunt it.

Those words seem to ring true for the Agawam High boys' baseball team, at least when it comes to their pitching staff. Except for the three games where sophomore ace Brian St. Jean (3-0 at this writing) has started and gone the distance, the coaching staff has been giving a big group a lot of work, usually employing at least three arms a game. Perhaps it has something to do with the experience of this senior-laden (13 of 17 players) team.

Earlier in the year, senior shortstop Mike Wing noted, "Almost everyone on this team can pitch if they have to." Coach Pete Clark, upon hearing Wing's optimistic observation, smiled and added, "Yeah, but who can pitch well?"

He's finding out fast. Many are capable. They showed it again in their 13-7 win last Friday over visiting South Hadley. Dave Federico started, went four innings, and got the win, his first of the season. Eric Melbourne worked two frames. Kevin Mattson mopped up in the seventh.

12 Runs In First Two Innings

Agawam all but decided the issue in the first two innings, when they scored 12 runs, answering the Tigers' lone run in the top of the first, to lead 12-1 after two. Centerfielder Brady Martin led off with a first inning triple. Wing legged out an infield quail. Austin Kimball walked to load the bases (no outs). A Ryan Progulske pop saw the runners hold. Bryan O'Quinn walked, sending Martin home. Brian St. Jean hit it to short. The ball came home on the fielder's choice. The throw was high and Wing scored under it. Kevin Cornwell hit into a 4-3 fielder's choice, scoring Kimball. Andy St. Jean stepped in with two out. He pushed a high, lazy pop over second. The Tiger second sacker raced back and made a tough catch with his back to the diamond, but he stumbled and dropped the ball.

O'Quinn and Brian St. Jean, off on the play, scored on what turned out to be an error. Nine men traveled to the plate. Five of them came back across it, giving Agawam an early 5-1 lead.

Agawam put seven more on the board in the second. It was a scoring feeding frenzy against the Division II visitors. Martin led off again and reached on an infield hit to short. He held at third (after two steals), when Wing beat out another infield quail, again to Tiger shortstop Chris Lessard (who obviously didn't realize how fast the two Brownie set-up men were). Martin and Wing were camped on third and second, respectively, when Progulske stalked to the plate.

Progulske, big and powerful, is a longball threat every time he steps into the box. He homered over the centerfielder's head. It was a prodigious bang which took off like a John Daly tee-shot - 20 feet off the ground, and hit so hard it refused to heed the law of gravity.

8-1, Brownies

The only thing that made it interesting was the fact that Tiger centerfielder Sopathe Mar, playing deep enough to get a job in the AHS cafeteria, almost made a spectacular over-the-head grab.

However, the effort failed. Progulske rumbled home, picking up three RBI's in the process. The score stood at 8-1, Brownies.

O'Quinn walked for the second straight time. Brian St. Jean reached on an error. Cornwell walked, loading the bases. Andy St. Jean, who plays the game with a certain singular intensity reserved mostly for catchers, singled over short, driving in O'Quinn and his brother. South Hadley brought in a new pitcher. Jay Hanscom singled. Agawam had Andy St. Jean at second and Hanscom at first. Martin stepped in and doubled Cornwell and Andy home. The score said 12-1, Brownies. The Tigers had vanished from the radar scope. The South Hadley third saw no score - likewise the Brownies.

Clark started to make changes in the fourth. He inserted junior Brian Machos into left, moving O'Quinn to center. South Hadley scored two runs in the top of that inning on a walk, a bunt, a passed ball, and a double. Agawam could do nothing in the bottom of the fourth.

The fifth dawned with more Agawam moves. Cornwell went from third to second. Mike Sullivan, a junior, came in at third. Eric Melbourne went to the hill. South Hadley went down as he punched out two, gave up a single, and induced a 5-3 groundout.

The Brownies picked up one more run in the bottom of the inning. Brian Machos, hitting for Martin, doubled. He went to third on a passed ball. Wing walked. Kimball lofted a rainmaker to right. Martin, who would score three runs on the day, kissed the dish on this one.

The sixth saw the Tigers do a bit of damage. Melbourne punched out the lead-off kid. A single, two walks, and a triple off the bat of third baseman Tony Lucas got South Hadley three runs. Lucas came home on a single. Melbourne escaped the inning with a strikeout and a groundout. Those four scores saw the Brownies fail to hit the trigger in the bottom of the inning. It didn't matter all that much. They were up, 13-7.

Junior Kevin Mattson came in for the seventh. He set the side down in order. Agawam's record rose to 6-1. South Hadley fell to 4-2.

BROWNIE STATS: Martin - 3-3 (triple, double), 2 rbi, 2 rs, 2 sb; Wing - 2-2, 2 rs, 3 sb; Kimball - 0-2, 1 rbi, 1 rs; Progulske - 1-4 (HR), 3 rbi, 1 rs; O'Quinn - 0-1, 1 rbi, 2 rs; B. St. Jean - 0-4, 1 rbi, 2 rs; Cornwell - 1-3, 1 rbi, 1 rs; A. St. Jean - 1-3, 4 rbi, 1 rs; Hanscom - 1-2; Machos - 1-2 (double), 1 rs; Sullivan - 0-1.

PITCHING: Federico (w), 4 IP; 6 H; 3 R; 3 ER; 2 BB; 4 SO; 5.25 ERA. Melbourne, 2 IP; 3 H; 4 R; 4 ER; 2 BB; 4 SO; 14.00 ERA; Mattson, 1 IP; 0 H; 0 R; 0 ER; 0 BB; 1 SO; 0.00 ERA.

HITTING: Agawam - AB-29, H-9, .310, LEFT ON BASE - 5. South Hadley - AB-30, H-9, .300, LEFT ON BASE - 7.

After Slow Start, Brownie Girls Bomb SHS Lacrosse, 13-2

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It was a slow start for the Agawam girls' lacrosse team Tuesday afternoon. They beat visiting South Hadley 13-2, but fell behind, 1-0, before the game was even a minute old. With three minutes gone, they were still struggling. Their first goal came at the 4:01 mark on a penalty shot by Sheri Benton.

Coach Cindy Grieve had seen enough. She called a timeout and read her team the riot act. "I could tell in the warm-ups that the kids weren't motivated. I can't do that for them. They had to do it themselves," she noted. However, her speech did something, because things were different after that little meeting.

Agawam, which lives by its passing game, began to do just that - moving the ball downfield, making cuts, looking for the open shooter. At the 4:01 mark, freshman Kara Barnes broke in on the right wing and launched a shot from 15 feet out. That score made it 2-1, Brownies.

Brownie Defense Dominates

Agawam's defense, led by Sheri Benton, Shelly Rose, and Heather Hughes, was beginning to dominate. Goalie Mary Elizabeth Dupelle made two fine saves within a 30-second timespan. The offense benefitted from the good defensive work. Jill DeMarco and Christina Gregory passed the ball down the field. Gregory spotted Sarah Drenzek beside the Tiger goal and hit her with a pinpoint pass. Drenzek scored to put her team up 3-1. Drenzek (three goals) would score a few minutes later to make it 4-1 and the rout was on.

Drenzek got her third goal at the 21:16 mark on an assist from Benton. Kate Shannon split the tiger defense a minute later and scored to make it 6-1. A minute after that, Shannon, a sophomore who plays like a veteran, went in on another rush. Only a great save by South Hadley keeper Kristy Stefanelli kept her off the scoreboard. There were less than two minutes left in the first half when Gregory took a pass from Benton and scored from 10 feet out. The half ended with Agawam up 7-1. They had nine shots on goal. The Tigers managed six.

Brownies Come Out Attacking

The Brownies came out attacking to start the second half. With three minutes gone, Benton, on a hustle play, scored her second goal of the game. A minute-and-a-half later, Lindy Gage lit it up with a shot dead in front of the Tiger net. Gage assisted on the next Brownie score, when she hit Jill DeMarco with a pass. DeMarco (three goals), a savvy senior, blasted it home, making the score

SEE GIRLS' LACROSSE - Page 46...

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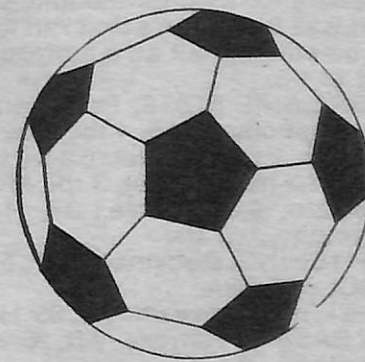
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FINAL SIGN-UPS for FALL SOCCER



May 2, 1998
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(Boys and Girls born between 8/1/81 and 7/31/93)

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Kopec & Riggott Take Features At Riverside Speedway

On the night the amusement park opened for the 1998 season, the NAPA Modified division returned to action at Riverside Park Speedway with twin 35 feature races. Chris Kopec of Ware captured the first feature after a caution-filled race, and Ted Riggott of East Hartland, Connecticut took the second modified feature.

The first 35-lap modified feature ran under green flag conditions until lap 16. Kopec took the lead on the caution and sat through several more lengthy cautions before taking the checkered flag. Kopec was followed by Riggott, Rob Summers, Richie Gallup, and Renee Dupuis in fifth place.

The second 35-lapper ran under much better conditions and Riggott was able to improve upon an already successful night and grab his first win of 1998. Kopec remained competitive during the second feature, and worked his way from a 10th place starting position to finish second. Ted Christopher finished third, followed by Gallup and Summers.

Also in action on April 25th was the Serv-U Auto Supply Pro Stock division. Eddy Carroll, III of Suffield took the lead from Jay Miller on lap 23 of the 40-lap feature was untouchable for the rest of the race. Carroll took down the win, followed by Jim Mavlouganis, John Lobo, Miller, and Jeff Horn in fifth place.

The Teddy Bear Pools Truck Division continued their inaugural season and Kris Valerio became the second winner in the new division. Valerio was followed by Scott Ciak, Skip Breunig, Chuck Docherty, and Mike Salmond in fifth.

The mini stock division ran a 20-lap feature and Cheryl Reilly of Northford, Connecticut inherited a win after Ace Johnson was disqualified for being 500 pounds too light after the feature. Reilly was followed by George Correia, Dave Sullivan, Paul Parker, and Joel Shover.

Finally, the Hartford Courant Thrills and Spills Series debuted with a special Saturday night event. Rob Grainger captured the win. Riverside Park Speedway continues its 50th Anniversary season May 2nd with the NASCAR Busch North Series 125.

Busch North Series Coming To Riverside On Saturday, May 2nd

The NASCAR Busch North Series - Grand National Division will make the second stop of its 19-race schedule at Riverside Park Speedway on Saturday, May 2nd.

The 125-lap event will be accompanied by Riverside Park's regular Saturday night NASCAR Winston Racing Series divisions.

Presented by New England Ford Dealers and Mobil, this race will feature some of the top racing talent in the Northeast. "The drivers are all enthusiastic about the series and they interact great with the fans. I'm looking forward to some great racing," says Joe Lewandoski, Director of Auto Racing at Riverside Park Speedway.

Last year's Busch North Series race at Riverside Park saw "Dynamite" Dave Dion of Pelham, New Hampshire land in Victory Lane after a dazzling move past 1997 series champ Mike Stefanik. Dion was followed by former Riverside Park Speedway champions Stefanik in second place and Jerry Marquis in third. Andy Santerre and Jamie Aube finished out last year's top five.

"That's the type of track I love the most," says Dion of the Agawam one-quarter mile facility. "It's the Bristol of the North," says Dion. "It's an equalizer. You have to work hard all night. Any driver has a chance to win there. It's really great for the fans."

Lewandoski is equally excited for the fans. "I'm real happy that we can provide a venue where fans can see a competitive NASCAR Grand National race. I can only hope to have the same weather we had for the Pepsi 200," says Lewandoski, speaking of the summer-like temperatures that graced Riverside Park for the season-opener on March 29th.

Tickets for this race are \$19.99 and advanced sales are not available. Next up at Riverside Park Speedway is the first leg of the historic Bud Triple Crown Series on May 9th.

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SUPER MODIFIED WINNER Mike Ordway leads No. 14 Scott Martel en route to a recent victory.



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Pioneer Valley Soccer Round-Up

U11 Girls - Cobras

On April 14th, the Cobras took on the Northampton Rowdies. With some of the 'Hamp girls playing on the same Maple team as many of the Cobras, this game is always very competitive and fun to watch.

The Cobras did manage to score first and had a 2-0 lead. Goalie Jamie Cullen had several good saves in the first half before the Rowdies managed to put one in the net. At halftime, the score was tight — 2-1, Cobras.

The strong offense of the Cobras wasn't through yet, and they added two more goals in the second half for a 4-1 win.

Chicopee was the Cobras' next opponent. The AJAC girls played really tough in the first half, and although the Cobras had several scoring chances, they were unable to capitalize. The score was tied 0-0 at halftime.

In the second half, the Cobra girls started to wear Chicopee down. The defense continued to control the game, rarely allowing AJAC out of their own end. The offense found some holes in the Chicopee defense and managed to put two goals past the Chicopee keeper for a 2-0 Cobra victory.

On a cold, raw, and rainy Thursday night, the girls from Agawam took on Palmer, one of the new teams in the division. The game started with the Cobras controlling the play right from the beginning of this one.

The offense for the Cobras applied plenty of pressure, but Palmer proved to have a very talented goaltender. The Cobra girls bombarded her in the first half, but nothing would go in! The score was 0-0 at halftime.

In the second half, Palmer began to apply some offensive pressure of its own. Outstanding defense by the Cobra girls contained Palmer, though. It looked like after dominating the whole game, the Cobras were destined for a tie.

The Cobra girls continued to work very hard and showed everyone there that hard work does eventually pay off. With less than three minutes remaining in the game, Tiffany Manzi finally drove the lone goal of the game into that elusive net, thus improving the Cobras' record to 5-0-1.

U11 Girls - Hot Shots

On Thursday, April 23rd, the Hot Shots played their third game against Scantic River. It was a cold and windy night.

The Hot Shots lost the toss and were unable to get the wind to their advantage when we wanted it.

The extreme wind and cold made this game a real challenge for the girls, but they worked hard to keep control of the ball. The ball had to be kept low in order to get it up the field. Even while the ball was on the ground, the wind was moving it around so much that the girls had a hard time controlling the ball. The Hot Shots did very well in the first half, keeping the score at 0-0.

In the second half, the wind played a big part in Scantic River keeping the ball down on our end of the field, which eventually led them to score.

The Hot Shots lost 2-0. Good job, girls; we'll get them next time!

SEE SOCCER - Page 45...



THE U12 GIRLS' "LIGHTNING": top row - Coaches Patrick Kelly, Donald Smith, and Scott Skolnick; second row from top - Ashley ("Smit") Smith, Katherine ("Bitz") Bitzas, Amanda ("Mindy") Janik, Laura ("Rock") Pederson, Jen ("Psycho") Miarecki, and Meghan ("Slick") Ennis; third row from top - Rachel ("Boo") Keenan, Bethany ("Badger") Reid, Pavlina ("Beans") Moysis, Caitlin ("Pebbles") Foley, and Amy Proulx; bottom row - Allison ("Sonic") Siedlik, Meghan ("Cousin") Kelly, Sara ("Moose") Skolnick, Megan ("Bam Bam") Gloster, and Joanne ("Joanie") Brignoli. (Not pictured - Coaches Dimitri Moysis, Jen Reid, and Rich Gloster.)

U12 Girls - Lightning

The Agawam Lightning Girls' Under 12 Division I Soccer Team just completed a highly successful indoor season at Games and Lanes.

The girls used the indoor season to sharpen their ball-handling and passing skills in preparation for the spring outdoor season for the Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League.

During the course of the indoor season, the Lightning defeated teams from Ludlow, Springfield, Agawam, and perennial rival Northampton.

The team worked hard all winter and their efforts were rewarding by tying for first place during the regular season and finishing second in the playoffs to a very physical Ludlow Viper team.

The Lightning has started their spring outdoor season with tremendous spirit. Several girls, including Amy Proulx, Megan Gloster, and Sara Skolnick, have overcome injuries to make strong contributions for the team. The girls are playing as a unit and have greatly matured as a soccer team.

The Lightning opened their outdoor season with a 5-1 victory over Longmeadow. They followed that by defeating Cold Spring 4-0 and Amherst 4-1. In a game of playoff contenders, the Lightning beat Wilbraham 3-0 and then tied Westfield 1-1 in

a game in which the team played with no substitutes, but did play with great heart and enthusiasm. This past weekend, the Lightning suffered their only loss of the season to Northampton which placed the Lightning into second place in their very difficult and competitive division with a record of 4-1-1.

The team has received strong offense from Amanda Janik, who has scored 10 goals in six games. Other goal producers to date are Katherine Bitzas, Joanne Brignoli, and Rachel Keenan.

Goaltending has been a key to the team's success. Meghan Kelly and Megan Gloster have excelled in that position along with on-the-field play.

The team defense has been led by Bethany Reid at sweeper, Tory Lyons at center fullback, and Jen Miarecki, Laura Pedersen, and Meghan Ennis at outside fullbacks.

Caitlin Foley, Ashley Smith, Allison Siedlik, and Pavlina Moysis are playing strong at halfback. Amy Proulx, Katherine Bitzas, and Sara Skolnick are all playing well and at more than one position.

The girls are having fun and are enjoying playing as a team. They are showing great enthusiasm and are working hard for their success. They certainly deserve the outstanding accomplishments that they are accumulating.



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SOCCER - from Page 44...

On Sunday, April 26th, we traveled to Wilbraham. It was another rainy day and the field we played on was quite soft with long grass.

This time the girls would have to contend with a slow ball, which turned out to be a factor for the first goal of the game made by Wilbraham. The game seemed to be pretty even, though, with the ball travelling to both ends of the field. But by halftime, we had tied it up.

During the second half, each team shared penalty points because of a couple of pushes in the box. Our shooter drove the ball to the keeper's right side and had just enough speed on the ball to go through the fingertips of the keeper.

Wilbraham's shooter, however, was unable to get enough of the ball and gave our keeper a slow roller to the goal. Shortly before the end of the game, we would put one more in the goal.

The Hot Shots won 3-1. Great effort by all in this game; keep up the good work!

U13 Girls - Tigers

The U13 Agawam Tigers moved to 4-2 in Division I of the Pioneer Valley Girls' Junior Soccer League with two victories last week.

On Thursday, April 23rd, the Tigers defeated Northampton, 1-0 in a wind-driven rain at the Agawam Middle School.

The Tigers held a huge territorial advantage in this game. The only goal came midway in the first half when center-halfback Whitney Brown scored after receiving a nice feed from Kaitlin Sardella. Whitney took the pass in full stride about 35 yards out and dribbled well inside the penalty area before launching a drive that beat the goalie cleanly.

The Tigers, with the strong wind in their faces in the second half, were able to keep Northampton pinned in its own end with some stellar midfield play from Aimee Beaudette, Jen Sharpe, Nicole Gendreau, Ellen Rannenber, Whitney Brown, and Kaitlin Sardella. Striker Melissa Savenko hit the inside of the crossbar once and just missed another goal following a huge scrum in front of the net.

Fullbacks Danielle Cirillo, Tricia Fitchben, Sherri Laskowski, and sweeper Kim Hoague also played strong to give goalie Vicky Taylor little to do in earning the shutout. 'Hamp did not have a single shot on her in the half despite having the very strong wind at its back.

On Saturday, April 25th, the Tigers escaped the clutches of the Wilbraham Falcons with a 2-1 victory in Wilbraham.

The Falcons are always a tough opponent and on this cloudy and cold morning, the Falcons controlled the game but came away empty.

Goalie Vicky Taylor again saved the day for the Tigers. She was under heavy pressure throughout the game. Fullbacks Danielle Cirillo and Tricia Fitchben each had outstanding outings, and sweeper Kim Hoague also found herself surrounded by Wilbraham attackers from start to finish.

Trailing 1-0 at the intermission, the Tigers received a huge break midway through the half when the Falcons' goalie picked up the ball outside of the penalty area. Center-halfback Whitney Brown took the direct kick and rocketed the ball into the net from 25 yards out, lifting the Tigers to a 1-1 tie.

Late in the game, Tricia Fitchben, playing wing for the first time this season, dug the ball out of the corner, and sent it into the middle where halfback Nicole Gendreau managed to pass the ball near the left post. Wing Meaghan Brown was waiting and her shot was into the net before the Wilbraham goalie could move for the 2-1 advantage.

Wilbraham then continued to apply pressure on Vicky Taylor, who was again on top of her game to preserve what appeared to be an unlikely victory for most of this game.

U11 Boys - Annihilators

On Thursday, April 23rd, the Agawam Annihilators played their fifth game of the season in freezing rain and wind, which could have knocked you right off your feet.

We must give credit to Agawam and Monson for their efforts, for playing so aggressively and hard in such inclement weather.

The first half started off with Agawam defensemen Chase Sardella, Mike Santos, Justin Robinson, Nick Crescentini, and Dan Serna holding off Monson on several attempts to get to Mat Footit, our excellent goalie. But with the wind against us and being short some players, Monson capitalized on us with a score.

But down and not out, with players showing up, Agawam got back into this game with Joe Carracciolo, Jordan Buiso, Nick Gruska, Corey Paquette, and Tommy Mercadante moving downfield. Jordan Buiso scored with an assist from Joe Carracciolo.

Agawam was now in this game with a score of 1-1. Agawam again capitalized with another goal by Nick Gruska on an assist from Corey Paquette. Thanks to defensive players Chase Sardella and Dan Serna for some great kicks downfield to help Agawam with that goal.

The second half score was 2-1, Agawam. Monson again came back strong with fresh legs and Agawam with no subs and one injury. Again, we played short. But Monson just couldn't score against Mat Footit. He had some great saves!

But with 10 seconds left, Monson beat us to the ball to score, giving us a tied game.

Great job to all these Agawam Annihilators for their effort and good spirit.

The Agawam Annihilators started their sixth game of the season in rain and wind. The 0-0 score had the Hampden soccer team struggle against the Annihilators with strong defense from Ryan Evans, Mike Santos, and Chase Sardella.

Halfbacks Nick Crescentini and Dan Serna kept Hampden on their feet. Despite the effort from Corey Paquette and Justin Robinson, Hampden

scored a goal to lead the Annihilators, 1-0, in the first half.

But within minutes, a handball was caught in the box to give the Annihilators a chance to tie the game with a penalty shot. With wind and rain against him, fullback Chase Sardella shot the penalty shot in the corner to give the Annihilators the 1-1 tie.

The second half started off with strong offense by wings Nick Gruska and Joe Carracciolo. Insiders Ryan Harlow and Jordan Buiso had many attempts to try to score, but Hampden's defense was just too tough.

Goalie Mat Footit had tremendous saves to hold the 1-1 tie, but Hampden came back to score a rebound goal after two tough saves to make it a 2-1 win for Hampden.

Remember, our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

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Golf Tip Of The Week...

Compiled by
Jim Modzelesky,
PGA
Oak Ridge Golf Club,
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To achieve maximum distance and accuracy, it's imperative that you strike the ball with the center of the clubface. I make sure this happens by keeping a mental picture of contact in my mind through the swing.

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This gives my hands a precise target at impact — the return of the club to the same position it was in at address.



GIRLS' LACROSSE - from Page 42...

10-1, Agawam. At the 11:00 mark, DeMarco got her second score of the game on a pass from Drenzek. After another fine save by Dupelle, the Brownies stormed downfield. Benton rushed up the middle, split the defense, and scored at 12:12 to make it 12-1, Agawam.

South Hadley got one back with five minutes left. But it was way too little and way too late. The Agawam defense, with good play from Dupelle in the net and Alison Pratt, Cheryl Lanier, and Lauren Kida in front of her, had things under control. DeMarco would score the final Agawam goal with 1:40 left. The Brownies had 11 second-half shots for a game total of 20. South Hadley took eight for a total of 14.

* * *

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon...

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Shad Run Is On In Connecticut River...

The Atlantic Shad, often referred to as the poor man's Atlantic Salmon, have arrived on their annual spawning run. Most of the fish present in the river at this time are the smaller "buck shad" or males. A few of the larger "roe shad" or females have been taken, but the run is just getting started. The fish have actually been here for a few weeks, but the unusually high water levels have hindered angler efforts until now.

With the river level at about four feet on the bridge marker, and water current quite heavy, extra weight in the form of several large split shot and a heavy dart are necessary to get the offering down to the fish.

During the spawning run, the shad do not eat. They strike at the darts out of anger or just plain cussedness. Anything that gets in their way is liable to get nipped at, as nature's strongest urge drives them upstream to their ancestral spawning grounds.

Locate fish near areas of faster water, as well as mouths of the feeder streams or rivers. The mouth of the Westfield River and the Chicopee River are traditional hot spots for boat anglers. Areas adjacent to deep water around bridge supports also offer good chances.

Bridge abutments cause the water to flow faster as it moves around them. This attracts the shad and probably fools them into thinking that they have found the "Main Flow" of the river.

Shore-bound anglers congregate on the Westfield River along the dike area in West Springfield, as well as the areas behind the Dunkin' Donuts shop in Agawam. The Chicopee River draws numerous anglers fishing from shore at the mouth of the river, as well as large numbers of fishermen in the area below the falls.

The area just below the Holyoke Dam has started producing. A word of caution to boaters looking to make the trip beyond the 391 bridge. Look out for treacherous waters! If you are not familiar with where the narrow channel is, don't try it! This stretch of water is a boat mechanic's dream come true. This stretch is known as Lower Unit City and can make a trip to the dam one of the most expensive trips of the year.

The good news is that the newly-finished ramp on the South Hadley side eliminates the need to navigate through the rapids.

Striper Bonanza Continues In The Thames River — Big Stripers Headed Our Way Soon
Schoolie stripers, with an occasional large fish, continue to be taken in abundance just off of the Town Dock in Norwich, Connecticut. Small boat

anglers and even canoes are lining up for a drift over the hump and dropoffs 300 feet off the docks.

Jigs with twister tail grubs in smoke color or brown have been working great. Try barbless hooks to make an easy release, and enjoy some fantastic fishing.

A mile or so down river from the launch ramp, try fishing the west side of the river on the edge of the channel. Look for the rock ledges and stay about 60 to 80 feet out. Don't be afraid to toss a jib and twister combo into the deeper channel. Some of the larger fish are coming from near the bottom, but the majority of the fish are suspended between eight and 15 feet in 20 feet of water near the channel markers.

Connecticut River striper action is heating up with mostly school-sized stripers being taken in this stretch, with larger fish moving into the areas above Hartford. Some big fish should start to arrive as soon as the blue back herring run gets underway in earnest.

FISH REPORTS FRESH WATER

Connecticut River: The shad run has started and will build for the next three or so weeks. Smallmouth action is picking up. Look for areas of calmer water and back water coves. Some largemouth action has been reported in backwater areas. School-sized stripers are being taken as far north as the Holyoke Dam.

Larger stripers are now around the areas from Hartford to Windsor Locks, with a few reports of the Enfield Dam beginning to produce some keeper-sized fish.

Congamond Lakes and Hampton Ponds: Trout anglers continue to take decent-sized fish while trolling. Streamers trolled near the surface in the dawn hours, along with the usual assortment of hardware, are accounting for the lion's share of fish. Scattered catches of Atlantic Salmon broodstock keep things interesting.

Valley streams have been stocked, and stabilizing water levels should result in better and more consistent action.

Pre-spawn largemouth fishing is improving. **Catch and release** here is critical to maintaining the fishery.

SALT WATER

Stripers in the Thames River, as previously noted, are providing hot and heavy action. Old Saybrook is churning out some decent catches of flounder along with some good schoolie action.

For Stripers, try the areas above the Route 95 bridge. Fish the rock piles with marker poles that show the channel. The rock piles are great striper-holding structure, and the channel markers point out the dropoffs like a neon sign.

Bucktails with a twister tail or pork strip seem to work great. Flounder fishermen continue to connect on sand worms and clam strips fished on the bottom.

Rhode Island fishermen also report schoolie bass in the estuaries and rivers. Point Judith breakwaters are giving up flounder, and the action will only improve from here on.

Party boats continue to ply the offshore ledges and wrecks for cod. Depending on the weather, some decent cod catches have been made along with some good-sized pollack.

Enjoy the week in our great New England outdoors! So many fish ... so little time!

Kent Servis's column, "Outdoors New England," is another reason why you turn our pages every week - Advertiser News!

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YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT on Friday, the 15th of May, 1998, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at Tax Collector's Office, Agawam City Hall, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE City of Agawam the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

**To Avoid Tax Taking Please Call: 786-0400
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L11-4-7, recorded at HAMPDEN COUNTY REGISTRY OF DEEDS - Book 8604, Page 260. Tax for FY 96 \$1,910.63.**

Daggett Gymnasts To Compete At Junior Olympic Nationals

Gymnasts from the Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics boys' team posted several victories at the 1998 Region VI (New England) Championships held at the University of Vermont on April 18th.

Six Daggett gymnasts from the Class I, II, and III Regional Competition will now compete in the Junior Olympic National Championships to be held in Battle Creek, Michigan from May 6th through May 10th.

In Class I (16-18), Darren Morace of Westfield placed second all-around, taking first on high bar and parallel bars, third on rings, and fifth on floor exercise and pommel horse. He also received the 1998 Dwight Church Award, which is given to the most outstanding gymnast in the New England Region as voted on by the nation's coaches and judges.

They also awarded John Szymczyk (who was unable to compete because of injury) the Region VI/Massachusetts State Cup Scholarship. Mathieu Perry of Feeding Hills placed ninth in the overall competition.

In Class II (14-16), Jamey Houle of Longmeadow placed first in the all-around, taking first on floor exercise, pommel horse, and high bar, second on rings and vault, and third on parallel bars. Patrick McFarlin of Longmeadow placed second in the all-around with a first-place finish on vault, second place on high bar, parallel bars, and floor, and third on pommel horse and rings.

In Class III (12-14), Steven Gaudette of West Springfield placed first in the all-around, taking first on floor, pommel horse, and high bar, and second on rings, vault, and parallel bars. Alan Parsons of Suffield, CT, placed fifth all-around, taking a third-place finish on floor and rings, and a fifth-place finish on parallel bars.

Brooke Hollister Contributes To AIC's Women's Lacrosse

Brooke Hollister of Agawam, a junior at American International College in Springfield, contributed five goals and an assist in recent action for the college's women's lacrosse team.

In its busiest week of the season, AIC played four games and, in the process, picked up its first two wins of the year. On Thursday, April 16th, Hollister's team conquered visiting Endicott College, 12-6. Then, on Sunday, April 19th, AIC defeated the University of New England at home, 10-7.

Agawam Babe Ruth League Standings

TEAMS	W	L
Berkshire Power Padres	1	0
Christina's Country Store	1	0
Rockies		
Fran's Place Indians	0	0
AAMCO Yankees	0	1
Bill Walsh Royals	0	1

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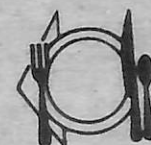
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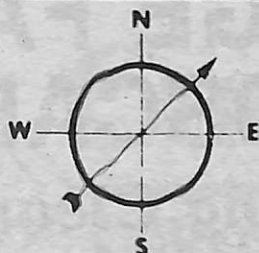
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